

THEY PIONEERED FOR US

COTTON



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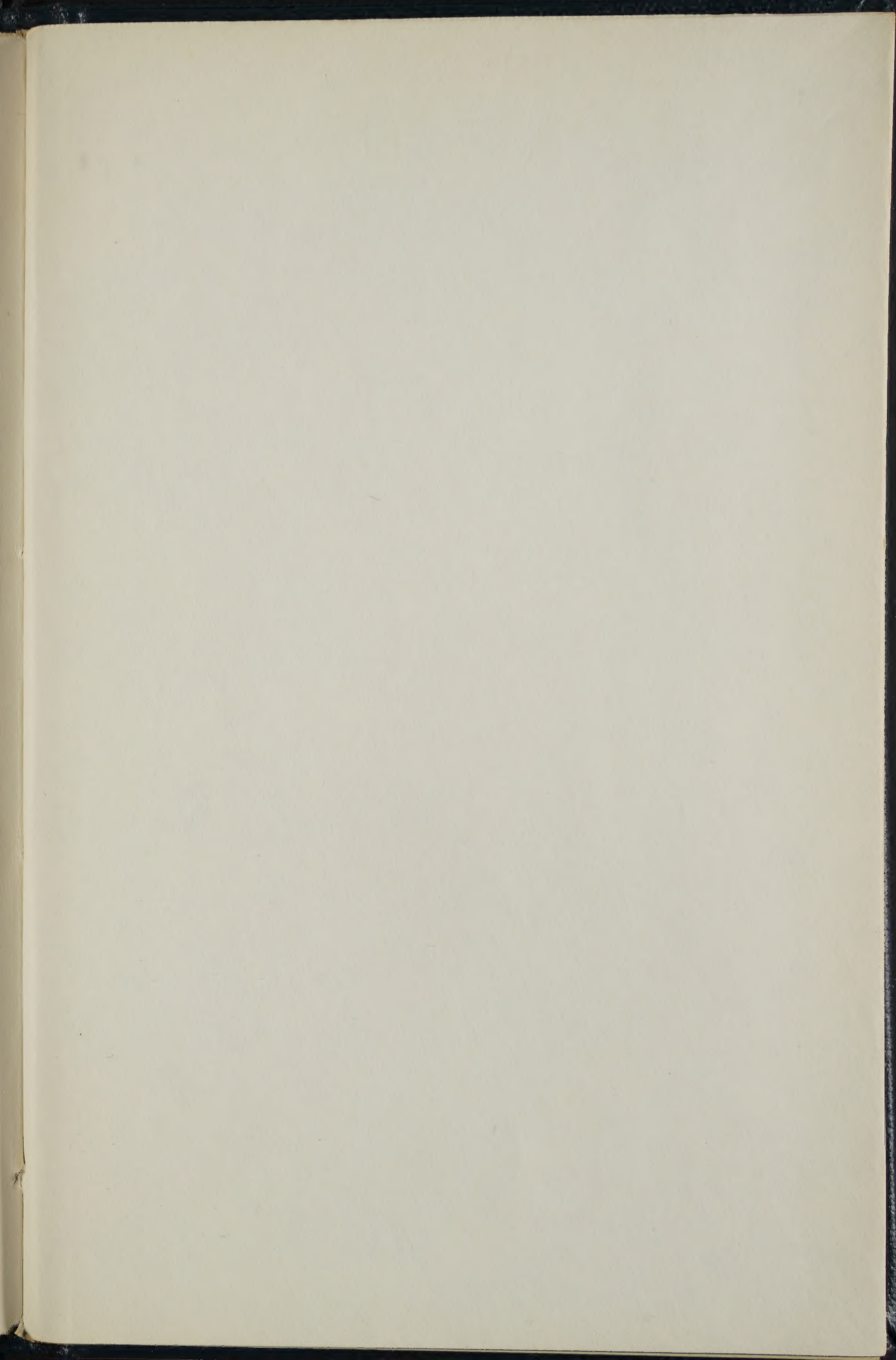
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# They Pioneered- For Us



Compiled and Edited By  
**Myrna Cotton**







# They Pioneered- For Us



Compiled and Edited By  
MYRNA COTTON

(whose mother, Mrs. Grace Fintzel Kremer, came from Minnesota in a covered wagon in 1879 to McCook County).

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

Biography is the only true history. -Emerson

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Barbara Cotton Zieger



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## INTRODUCTION

All over the world there are little towns, some of them nestled among the hills, others on the open plains. No matter where the town, if it is the "home town", it's the ONE town. When we are away from it there are invisible fingers pulling us back to it and in our opinion there is nowhere on earth that can equal the "home town". Miller, on your Diamond Anniversary, we greet you.

The city of Miller has perhaps as colorful a history as any town that began in pioneer days. Among the nearly 2000 inhabitants are those who remember stories of the early days.

Many who helped to make it's history lie in the three cemeteries in town and several in the rural areas, but those who did not live to see this Diamond Anniversary have left behind benefits for the rest of us to share. Their memories are perpetuated in the progress that keeps our town alive today.

The men who came here to settle on the prairie and to build the townsite and who are responsible for all the later developments that sprang from their pioneering, were men of vision and fortitude.

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We owe more than we can ever repay to the men who dauntlessly ventured into Dakota Territory and began our town of Miller.

Today some of the descendants of those pioneer fathers still live here. Although there are descendants of the Millers living in other places, those who make Miller their home include Kenny, whose father was Ed Miller and Veda whose father was Doug Miller; Keith Miller, a fourth generation descended from Mack Miller; and his three children Glenn Eugene, Linda Marie and Robert Lee who are fifth generation Millers, the great-great-grandchildren of Henry Miller, founder of the town. They, with the other inhabitants of the county, can remember with pride how one man at the head of a colony made possible our present "hometown", and on this Diamond Anniversary we can look with pride on the achievements stemming from an humble beginning.

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A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations.

-- Macauley



## PREFACE

It was in September 1908 that Mom, brother Dewey and myself came to Miller on the train from Madison, S. D. to join Dad, "Jack" the barber, who had been working here for several months.

I remember so well that first morning when we arose in the Henshaw Hotel and Mom was trying to button a squirming little six year old into her garter waist with black elastics. Why I remember that scene particularly I don't know, but I was anxious to get out and see the new town. At that age a whole new world of adventure lay ahead!

One remembers many things that took place but to get them onto paper would require many books.

What fun we had the day we moved from the old school house to the new one in 1910! May Rudd was my first teacher and Maude McVey the second teacher. A host of other memories comes flooding into my mind, too.

The aim of this book is to record stories and items that have come my way and although many people will perchance be left out in the recording, it is not INTENTIONAL! We would gladly have included EVERYONE and his RELATIVES. If your family is not mentioned it is because no one told us about them or we failed to do enough research to include them and we heartily ask forgiveness for any OMISSIONS.

I did not WRITE this book. People did the WRITING, I merely COMPILED the book.

MYRNA COTTON

## DEDICATION



Dr. Port McWhorter

To our family Doctor for many years, this book is lovingly dedicated. We remember "Doc" when "we kids," the Fintzels, the Lovells and Bobby McDonald used to gather in his office over Collins' Drug Store and he'd show us the appendices and tonsils preserved in alcohol. He took us swimming in the Plunge and as a ten year old I sat on his wide shoulders while he swam across the pool. The gimmick that plagued us most was "When can I take YOUR tonsils out?"

To "Doc" who loved "kids" and who gave unstintingly that they might be helped to health.

To "Doc" who with his wife gave the house where the Hot Lunch is located and playground equipment for the School.

To "Doc" whose dream of a county hospital came true.



## EARLY BEGINNINGS

Henry Miller, Founder of the Townsite of Miller -

The Compendium of Biography No. I, says of Mr. Miller: "No citizen has ever taken a more active part in its upbuilding, improvement and advancement (of the town of Miller.) He belonged to that class of representative men to whom the west owes its development and his life was so well and honorably spent that he received the high regard of all with whom he came in contact."

He was born in Ohio April 11, 1825 and spent the first eleven years of his life in the Buckeye state.

During the Civil War he bought horses for the government. While living in Iowa he operated his father's mill and engaged in farming and stock raising. He had 320 acres of land in Iowa and in 1863 he had the finest grain warehouse and lumber yard in Blirstown, Iowa. At one time he was sole owner of Blirstown Academy. He bought 5000 acres of land in Texas and planned to start a colony there. When this did not materialize he sold the land and July 7, 1881 he and a son first visited the site of Miller. They drove out from Huron with the intention of seeking a location and he and son E.J. set out stakes.

They came with the intention of seeking a new location and being pleased with the country they set out their claims and then returned home. Men to form the colony arrived the next September.

Millers later established the Miller Roller Mills in 1885.

His sons W.H. and E.J. began the Hand County Press January 2, 1882 the first paper ever published between Huron and Pierre. To that journal more than to any other agency the County is indebted for the immigration here.

Miller often told the early settlers: "stick to the native grasses and you do well." His name deserves to be put first on a roll of honored persons.

He started a subscription school in Miller in 1882 since he was always interested in education. "His name is a synonym of honor in all trade transactions."

The Miller family included Henry and his wife, Hannibal B., Eudell J., William Henry, John Douglass, Charles, Homer Mack, Edwin L. and Carrie.



From the Miller Gazette: - February, 1897

Drops Dead. Uncle Henry Miller, Father of our town dies suddenly.

The Gazette deeply regrets to announce to its readers the sudden and unexpected death of Henry Miller, who fell dead by his yard gate while shoveling snow at about nine o'clock Monday morning February 15, 1897, without being able to utter a word to those he has loved so long and well. Uncle Henry, as he was generally called, had lived a long and useful life, spending over 71 years in the states of Ohio, Iowa and South Dakota. He was remarkable in his own common, plain, peculiar way. Strong and forceful of character, honest at heart, and of a most generous, charitable disposition. No person ever appealed for aid to him and was refused. The Editor remembers upon various occasions of seeing the generous-hearted kind old man going from place to place with a subscription paper to raise money to buy food and clothing for the poor. It was not his disposition to stop when he heard of a family in want and ask what the needy husband and wife had done last summer; he realized past actions would not satisfy the craving hunger of helpless children who needed immediate relief; his motto was to extend charity where it was needed and consider other matters afterward.

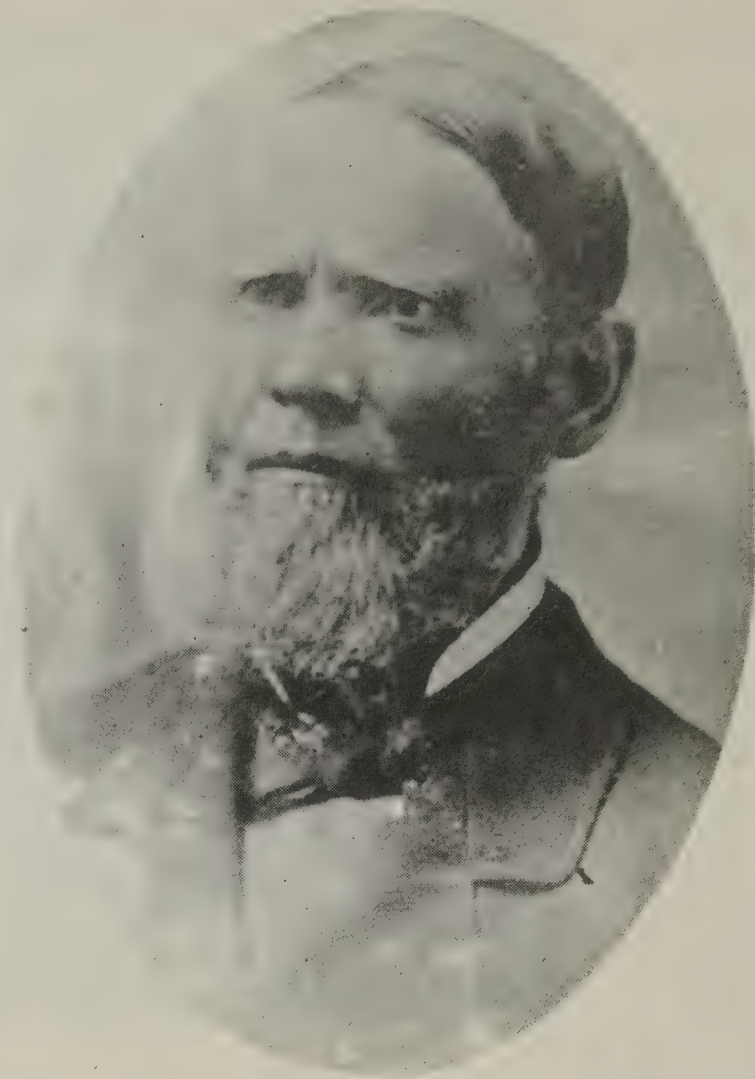
The name, Father and Founder of Miller, could be truly applied to him and will so be engrossed upon the pages of Hand County history, but he will be remembered by every member of his family as a true and loving father at home. He seemed to take care of his own troubles, and share his happiness with his family. His kind, friendly and homelike disposition will never be shut out from their sight. He was an ardent supporter of the church and was just as eager for the success of the school.

He was, for a number of years, a member of the M. E. Church, but sometime prior to his removal to the then Territory of Dakota he united with the Evangelical organization. From the year 1849 until the time of his death he was blessed with a faithful and loving wife who stood faithfully beside him through gladness and tears, and will patiently and prayerfully bide the time until they shall meet again. Much might be said of the deceased, but the Gazette could only poorly portray the many laudable acts of such a noble man.





Mrs. Henry Miller



Henry Miller





The family of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Miller. Standing left to right; Mack, Dell, William Henry, Hannibal, Douglas. Seated left to right; Charles, Carrie, Ed.



The funeral services were held at the Evangelical Church at three o'clock p.m. conducted by Rev. Bates who was assisted by Rev. Lobe and the remains were interred in the G.A.R. cemetery.

\* \* \*

The first company that organized the town of Miller moved to Dakota Territory September 8, 1881. Names of the men in the group of 22 were: Henry Miller, Blairstown, Iowa; I. Youngblood, Brownsville, Ind.; John C. Fisher, Brownsville, Ind.; J.W. Fosk, Pella, Ia.; John O'Neal, Carrol, Ia.; Leonard Lier, Pella, Ia.; Douglass Miller, Blairstown, Ia.; John Grunstad, Blairstown, Ia.; Rev. E.B. Cousins, Audubon, Ia.; and also from Audubon, James Pollett, S. Boatman, Hiram Webster, William Webster, Henry Newmire, S.S. Winters, V.J. Stafford, H.I. Garlick, David Luich, Noel Ross, William H. Miller, Eudel Miller, George Thom, Chester Wheeler, J.C. Havens, J.V. Munger, Joseph Thurmish, William Miller. Youngblood, E.J. Miller, Newmire, Grundstad remained to lay the foundation of the settlement. Newmire built houses, did carpenter work, others dug cellars, and put up hay for the others to come.

A pioneer settler writes in the first issue of the Hand Co. Press, January 4, 1882: "Hand County and its resources: This county that lies midway between the Missouri and Dakota Rivers, in the southeast part of Dakota Territory, is rich agricultural and grazing region. It is 80 miles wide and 48 miles long and contains 1440 square miles. The rich prairie land is diversified by the Ree Hills in the southwest, Wessington Hills in the southeast, a low range of comparatively regular hills.

\* \* \*

From the issue of January 3, 1883 - Hand County Press.

#### Choice Homes For All

The new town and colony of Miller is likely to prove one of the marvels of South Dakota.

Only three months ago it had no existence in the then open and wild prairies far beyond the last and freshest ventures of a squatter. Now it is a lively town springing up with daily growth into a place of some magnitude and ultimate pretension; having already two commodious and respectable hotels for the accommodations of the numerous parties seeking locations for settlement. It has stores, offices and private dwellings up



and going up. The Main street exhibits life, energy and industry. So rapid has been its success that the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company has already put in a siding and built a spacious freight house whereas there was no intention of doing so under any circumstances earlier than the coming spring.

The location of the town is immediately close to the railway, there being only an 80 foot street intervening. The town is in the center of Hand County and will undoubtedly be the county seat. Miller is situated in the midst of excellent agricultural lands which surround it for many miles. The Turtle Creek and its branches meander much of the district north and east of the town and have their raise south thereof from the Ree and Wessington Hills where fine stock ranches may be obtained having good shelter in the numerous ravines, which are thickly interspersed with timber and shrubs. The water of this creek is of excellent quality and abundant for stock, and abounds in fish of several kinds.

The soil is a dark, fat sandy loam, generally termed "wheat lung." It is underlaid mostly with marly clay, intermixed throughout with white globules of chalk or lime and which is an excellent fertilizer. This has been proven by other lands of like nature in adjoining counties east, and, in fact, it is here clearly observable wherever any ground animals have dug their holes, around which the blue joint grass immediately springs up in a surprisingly luxuriant growth to a height of five or six feet. This soil is capable of bearing any kind of cereals or vegetables of the finest quality, and large quantities have been verified this year on the nearest cultivated lands.

The crops on the sod of the past season's breaking have produced an average equal if not superior to the old cultivated lands in the states. So convinced have the land-seeking settlers become that nearly all the surveyed lands in this part of the country have been taken up with avidity, and some are squatting on the unsurveyed lands, awaiting anxiously for the new surveys. So much alive is Mr. Miller, the proprietor of the townsite that he has applied for additional surveys to be made early in the coming spring and until which time he has secured the services of a competent surveyor to contact any who may desire to be sure of their lands being as near the town as possible.

The townsite is laid out with a view to the wants and comforts of the public. The Main streets are 100 feet wide, the



other streets 80 feet wide, the blocks are 350 feet square having an alley way through the center 20 feet wide, leaving the two tiers of lots each 165 feet deep; cut into business lots having 25 feet frontage and residence lots 50 feet. There are reservations to be made of two blocks, one for county buildings and the other for a public schoolhouse and these are on a gentle rise in the center of the town plot.

Mr. Miller has been most liberal in first giving some of his best lots on the condition of good buildings being erected there; and he is determined to sell at low rates to others with the same condition. Good side-walks are insured, by each party being compelled to build the same in front of his lot as part of the purchase consideration. Some parties, seeing the future of the location have taken portions of blocks and in the spring will immediately erect blocks of buildings as an investment.

The climate is exceedingly healthful, with abundant showers of rain for all growing purposes and those at the acquired season. The summers are warm and bright, but not unpleasantly hot; the fall clear, balmy and beautiful. The weather during November and December and the first half of January has been simply charming. The Rev. Dr. Hoyt, Episcopalian Church missionary of Dakota for twenty years, avers that he has seen over ten such beautiful winters during that time. Another gentleman, who has been in the territory fourteen years, states that he has seen ten out of fourteen winters very much like the present season. That last winter was exceptionally severe the world over is admitted by all and even then Dakota appeared to have been better off than almost any locality in the eastern world although suffering from a snow blockade which occurred in Minnesota, the main highway to Dakota and not entirely in the territory. The climate is considered as specific for those suffering from pulmonary diseases and many of the unfortunates are flocking here to re-establish their health.

Miller, by his foresight and through the liberality of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Co. has secured for this colony exceedingly low rates both on fares and freights for parties desirous of visiting or settling here, and which are even less than half rates for the round trip or otherwise, and these can be obtained on application to William Miller, thus giving all an opportunity to visit the locality and ascertain the truth of what is herein stated or if they desire other reliable information, it no doubt can be obtained from F. Nichols, Esq.



the "Overseer of the townsites" of the Chicago and N. W. Railway Co. who is acquainted with the whole of the portion of Dakota.

Above, cattle ranches were referred to. The following will show that that branch of farming will show of the most lucrative in the territory. The wild vegetation is abundant and even luxuriant and the grasses are of the finest quality, especially what is termed "buffalo grass" (*Seteria dacryloides*,) which is a grass about four inches high and curls down and cures on the ground making a superior winter feed; is very fattening and cattle prefer it to hay. Mr. Joseph Reed, the well known Dakota cattle herder of Medicine Creek, a few miles from the colony has for the last ten to thirteen years had a large herd, during the whole of which time his cattle have kept in fine marketable condition, never once having had hay or other food supplied them during the winter, save what they grazed from the prairie, nor were they supplied with sheds or other shelters - although for the want of them he lost many during the extreme severity of last winter. This alone should be a convincing proof of rich climate and soil of this future great state.

It might be added that fencing is unnecessary here, there being a territorial herd law, which is rigidly endorsed.

Also found in the same issue:

Four thousand farmers wanted each to take homesteads in Hand County without doubt the finest county in Dakota for growing wheat, corn, oats, barley, flax and all kinds of vegetables.

Cattle live all the year round without hay or grain. The water is pure and can be had soft or hard. No hot and dry south winds to parch everything up in the summer. Our winters are the same as in central Iowa. Here spring is at least two weeks earlier than in Iowa. You who are living on a rented farm and slaving yourself and your family for the benefit of someone else, with no prospect for acquiring a home of your own unless you do seek some place where lands can be had cheap, had better come to Dakota. Here lands that are homesteaded today are worth in one year in many instances, from \$6 to \$10 and even \$20 per acre. Here the capitalist is ever ready to loan even more money on each quarter section, than is required to prove up.

It is their only way to get control of the lands of Dakota. Hundreds of heavy bond owners in the east would be ready to pay up the bonds to central Dakota at a good price. But Dako-



ta is the haven for those who desire a place of their own, all are placed on equal footing. Men of energy and perseverance only are needed to make this the garden of the world. Those desiring to look for homes in Dakota should look at the cheap railroad fare to Miller.

\* \* \*

The land was paid for with scrip suitable to be laid on land not in the market. Mr. Miller had secured suitable scrip at \$10 per acre after much difficulty and several trips to Chicago. This was laid on the forty acre tract that was to be Miller and platted into town lots. In the original forty are blocks 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the present town.

\* \* \*

From the Sunday World Herald, Omaha, November 12, 1899.

"Efforts of both St. Lawrence and Miller to organize the county and locate the county seat. Gov. Ordway came to the scene and selected a man to be for Miller, one surely for St. Lawrence and his own section to organize the county and locate the county seat in 1882, Honorable G.L. Livingstone, Hon. J. M. King and Frank G. Wilkins.

The first meeting of this board was held at the prairie farm of Livingstone seven miles from either town.

The people from both towns mistrusted this deal so it was fought out at the polls in 1882 and Miller won by a small margin. St. Lawrence claimed the election was won by a fraud in the colonization of about twenty-five cowboys and tough characters from Pierre and Ft. Pierre who, it was charged, had been held in Miller for a period of thirty days so that under the law they would become legal voters.

The 1882 election that gave Miller the county seat did not settle the question. Under pressure of these early "boom" days each town grew and prospered. St. Lawrence had 500 people and Miller 800. Business equalled that of towns of thousands back east.

In 1888 St. Lawrence asked the county commissioners to call another vote for locating the county seat. A petition of 1600 names of Hand Co. voters was secured and laid down before the county board. This was followed by a remonstrance from Miller containing about as many signatures as the St. Lawrence petition. Hundreds of men signed both papers, their signatures on the remonstrance representing men who "had changed their minds."

Among prominent characters taking part in the feud were



the Hon. A.D. Hill, Democrat and banker, Hon. H.J. Baldwin, who worked for St. Lawrence.

Able attorneys in both towns handled the legal phase of the affair. After a brilliant forensic battle St. Lawrence won out and a vote was ordered for October of that year.

The battle waged with lots of money being offered Miller men to turn over to St. Lawrence.

The vote of 2000 in the county was about equally divided with St. Lawrence receiving about 100 majority. The law required two thirds majority for removal and Miller got the coveted prize.

\* \* \*

An interesting anecdote has it that Specs Baldwin working for St. Lawrence, was distributing literature for his cause when he inadvertently stopped at a drug store where he was induced to have a brief drink, not bought in front of the counter, however. During this interlude other men changed the literature in his valise for that boosting Miller. When Baldwin got clear down to the south part of the county, his destination, he found that he was boosting his opponents' cause.

\* \* \*

Excerpts from Sunday World Herald, Omaha, Nov. 12, 1899

County Auditor Gross tried to tear down a brick block he had purchased in St. Lawrence and move the same to Miller. He was opposed by Senator John King and the remnant of St. Lawrence upon the claim that the property could not be removed until the bonded indebtedness which St. Lawrence is obligated shall have been paid.

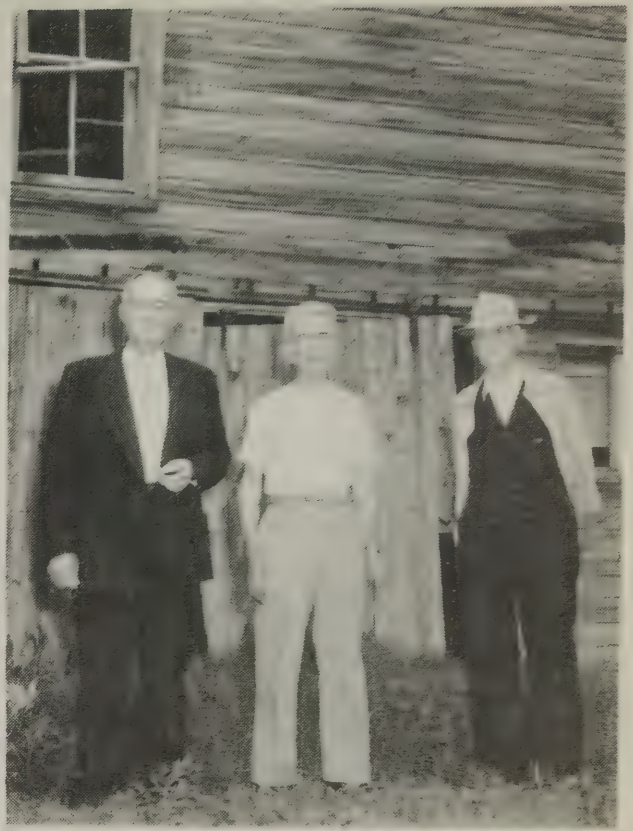
The history of these two towns has been an interesting drama dating from the early eighties. It has continued for more or less ever since, passing through two bitter contests for the county seat of Hand County in which Miller was victorious and often being the basis for strife between political parties and factions.

These rival towns are located only two miles apart on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad between Huron and Pierre and at one time laid aside their rivalry long enough to aspire for location of the State Capitol between the two towns for which purpose a large body of land was to be granted to the state.

But the old feeling of bitterness remained and the enterprise lacked the necessary action. Principal sponsor was ex-State Superintendent of Schools, G.L. Pinkham, whose farm lies between the two towns and was included in the grant.



July 5, 1951 William Rowland, Cleveland Heights, Ohio came back to Miller to visit after sixty years absence. The old Sessions barn in the background of the picture taken with two old friends, Dr. Port McWhorter, here visiting from California and Henry Morrow. Rowland's father was a druggist in 1882 and also served as dentist and physician. The Rowlands and McWhorters came in the same immigrant train in February 1881.



Dr. Port McWhorter, William Rowland, Henry Morrow.

In reminiscing Rowland recalled the time his little brother Freddie died of diphtheria. They weren't allowed to leave the house even to bury the child. Finally a lawyer advised them to lower the body from an upstairs window and it was taken for burial. However, public sentiment and fear were strong and the Rowlands were unable to get outside for food or to care for their stock for some time. He also remembered one of the ads run by a hotel in the Hand County Press:

"First class hotel." This brought an answer from the other hotel the following week: "We are the only third class hotel in the city. We set the poorest table and as we are never able to pay our help we are unable to give away a toothpick free. Our charges are unreasonable. We will try to make it as unpleasant as possible for all stopping at this unpopular hotel."

Soren DeFina Von Crong was the baker and it wasn't an uncommon sight for Indians to press their noses against the window of the bakery. Rowland could clearly recall how their noses were flattened against the pane. Once an Indian girl took after him with a knife. Undimmed by memory was the time Rowland ate twelve dishes of ice cream to celebrate when the first artesian well came in. Rowland was only eighteen years old when he left here.





George Myers, 1883, one of the early day barbers who married Emma Lovell, April 26, 1884.



Miller Roller Mills where from 50 to 60 teams gathered at one time to have grist ground. They came all the way from Miller to Onida.



## EARLY BUSINESSES OF MILLER

as recorded in the January 3, 1883 issue of the Hand County Press.

The new town of Miller began its career on the 8th day of September 1881 with a company of 22 persons led by Mr. Henry Miller after whom the town is named. At the time the land was not on the market and in order to establish a town site the public land had to be purchased with scrip suitable to be laid on the land not in the market. Through considerable difficulty and after making several trips to Chicago, Mr. Miller secured scrip at a cost of \$10 per acre. This was laid on 40 acres which was immediately platted into town lots, whereupon building began in earnest.

I. E. Youngblood built a hotel accommodating 20 guests. Not long after, George Hurtzel gave a contract for a large two story hardware store. J. V. Munger gave a contract for a hotel that was done in three weeks.

Horace Warner built a dwelling.

S. B. Johnson put in about 100,000 feet of lumber.

DRUGS. The Palace Drug Store. J. D. Fitzgerald is the proprietor of the finest drug store west of Winona. The store is 20 x 40 feet and was built for \$1200 by J. C. Williams. The store opened in June and has done a splendid business since. There is no more complete stock of drugs in Dakota, and besides Mr. Fitzgerald carries a heavy line of cigars and stationery in better stock than can be found elsewhere in Miller. Everything is sold at very reasonable prices.

The "New Departure" drug store is a first class drug store and is presided over by Dr. Pyle.

SAMPLE HALL. Empire Hall - is presided over by S. Boatman and we shall judge by the liberal patronage it receives that it is one of the most popular sample rooms in Miller. Together with stock, billiard table, fixtures and building, 20 x 40 feet, lot and all will cost Mr. Boatman \$2000. The Empire billiard hall is the pioneer saloon in Miller.

The Board of Trade Saloon. F. R. Van Dusen runs this establishment in a first class and orderly style. Those desiring to quaff any of the choicest liquors of all the leading varieties will always find them on tap at Frank's. His amiable



assistant Frank Battray is a graduate of Ann Arbor school of pharmacy and fills prescriptions promptly and satisfactorily. It is well known that the McBrayer brand of whiskey is the most superior liquor in the market and Van Dusen always has this brand in stock. He has expended considerable means in making his place attractive and all attest to the increasing popularity of the Board of Trade saloon.

Iowa Saloon. M. S. Abbott is the genial and good natured proprietor of the Iowa saloon, one of the most popular billiard halls between Pierre and Huron. Mr. Abbott has taken great pains in making his hall attractive. The building he occupies is 20 x 40 feet and is owned by J. G. Herschelman. Mr. Abbott has one side of his saloon covered with elegant pictures, arranged in an artistic, pleasing manner. His bar, billiard table and other fixtures have cost him nearly \$1000.

N. W. Exchange. This attractive billiard hall and sample room on the west side of Broadway is kept by Matt Ahern, the building being owned by his brother John Ahern. The "Exchange" is a neatly fitted and furnished place, supplied with "Matt" behind the bar. Mr. Ahern is one of the early settlers of the County coming here February 21, 1882 with his family from Morris, Ill. He also has a splendid claim two and one half miles from Miller.

LUMBER YARDS. Hubbard Brothers and Company. It is no newspaper talk of buncombe when we assert that the firm of Hubbard Brothers and Company is one of the heaviest lumber firms in the northwest. The gentlemen comprising the firm are A. A. Hubbard, Atlantic, Ia.; R. M. Hubbard, Huron, Jas. H. Warke, Miller. The firm owns some half dozen large lumber yards in Iowa and Dakota, the one at Huron being in charge of R. M. Hubbard. Warke was for a number of years in the employ of Hubbard Brothers in the lumber business in Iowa. He there manifested such a proficiency in the business that Hubbard Brothers insisted on his coming into the firm. Warke has the management of the yard at Miller where about \$10,000 stock of lumber has been stored. The yard is located on First Street to the rear of the Vanderbilt Hotel.

Mead and Wayne. F. M. Mead and E. M. Wayne are proprietors of the Pioneer Lumber Yard in Miller. They are do-



ing a live business and carry a stock worth \$5000. Mead is formerly of Carroll, Iowa and opened up the lumber business on his own hook about March 20. About September last he took into partnership E. M. Wayne also of Carroll. Their square dealing and moderate prices have worked up an enviable patronage for the firm, and early in the spring they will enlarge their stock of lumber, several thousands of dollars worth. The office is south of the railroad track, just west of the depot.

Dwigans and Smith. This firm also does a flourishing lumber business. Their yards are being located west of Mead and Wayne.

They carry a stock worth \$5000. B. R. Dwigans has two town lots in Garlicks addition to Miller. C. E. Smith is also in the jewelry business. Both gentlemen are from Benton County, Iowa.

LIVERIES. W. E. Rowland is proprietor of the pioneer livery stable in Hand County. He came here in November 1881 and opened up his stable in February following. His stable is 40 x 50 feet and has accommodations for 38 horses. The property including stock, carriages, wagons and all, cost Mr. Rowland over \$3400. He is doing a big business and manages a liberal and commendable enterprise by assuring the citizens of Miller that there is ample business to demand another livery stable in Miller.

W. H. Stout has commenced the erection of another livery stable 30 x 60 feet with stalls for 20 horses. He expects to equip the business in first class style at a cost of some \$3000. The stable will be on Arno Street.

Loan and Loan. W. J. and Lewis Loan have recently arrived from Iowa City and have already commenced erecting a mammoth 40 x 70 foot livery stable on the corner of Second and Ettie Streets. They will put in 20 teams and have their business in operation by the latter part of February. These gentlemen have the reputation of being live enterprising business men where they formerly lived.

NEWSPAPERS. Hand County Press. This paper was started January 4, 1882 with W. H. and E. J. Miller, proprietors



and publishers. It is the pioneer paper of Hand County and has been instrumental in bringing many settlers to better their condition on the fertile plains of Ree and Turtle Valleys. On November 20, 1882 it passed into the hands of Kephart and Seward who are endeavoring to make the paper worthy of the confidence and patronage of the people of Hand and adjoining counties.

Dakota State Journal. One of the newsiest and brightest papers in the northwest, the Dakota State Journal is published in Miller by S. L. Sage. The paper started during the fore part of last August under Johnson, Sprague and Co., and the fore part of October it changed hands and was published by Sage and Sprague until December 17 when Sage bought out his partner and is now sole proprietor and publisher. Under Mr. Sage's management the paper has made rapid progress and no paper its age ever had better prospects.

HARDWARE. Moffatt and Beasom. About the first of last month two young men, B. L. Moffatt of Chicago and George Beasom of Hudson, Mich., bought the hardware stock, building, and lots of Getzel and Co., corner of Broadway and Second Streets. They have since put \$10,000 into their business and they now carry absolutely the largest stock of any house west of the Jim River. Beside their splendid stock of hardware they carry a full stock of farming implements and building material. They occupy a two story building 20 x 20 feet which with the two lots are worth \$3500. These young men have an unlimited amount of "git up and git" and undoubtedly will have a fine success.

J. A. Daniels opened up business in Miller March 4, 1882 in a building 20 x 40 feet where he has a new stock of hardware worth \$4500. He conducts the leading implement business in Hand County in a building 20 x 60 feet. Mr. Daniels is of Belle Plaine, Iowa, of which place he was a pioneer settler also. Later owned by Stover, then James Redmond, still in operation.

HOTELS. Vanderbilt Hotel, M. A. Thompson proprietor. This building is 60 x 50 feet and three stories high with a mansard roof. Will accommodate 200 people. The hotel was finished on October last at a cost of \$8000. It is the finest



hotel along the division of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad as is generally admitted by all the traveling men who are the best critics in the world on such matters.

Commercial House. John T. Cartwright and William Weber proprietors. This is the pioneer hotel of Miller and has accommodations for 150 people. The building is a two story, and cost, all told, \$3000. Cartwright and Weber are formerly of Iowa City, Iowa and each has been instrumental in inducing a large number of the Iowa City people to locate in Miller and Hand County.

Munger House. This hotel is run by Miss Florence and Ada Munger. Their father opened the house about a year ago. They can accommodate 100 people. The building is two story and cost, when completed, in all \$2500. The two story building adjoining on the south was recently built by Mr. Munger for \$1800. This building is rented for \$660 a year. Mr. Munger also owns the vacant lot adjoining for which he will not take less than \$1000. Mr. Munger has "proved up" on a claim within a half mile of Miller. He has filed his declaratory on another and has a tree claim within a few miles of the town. There are a number of private boarding houses in town which we need not mention, yet in this connection it is proper to notice the restaurants.

W. H. Stout operates a first class restaurant on Broadway. He owns the building he occupies which was recently finished at a cost of \$2000. The restaurant averages 75 meals per day during the present dull season.

Newmire Brothers. These young men have just opened up a fine restaurant in the Postoffice block. They occupy accommodation quarters 22 x 40 and furnish excellent meals at any hour of the day. You can do no better for clothing the inner man than by going to the Newmire Brothers restaurant.

H. R. Garlick is an old pioneer and operates the City Bakery. His baking apparatus has a capacity of 1000 loaves per day. Mr. Garlick also runs a first class restaurant in connection with his baking business.



LAW, LOAN, LAND AND INSURANCE BUSINESS. W. S. Montgomery and Judge B. F. Payne occupy a neat office building on east Broadway two doors north of the Vanderbilt Hotel. They do an extensive business as attorneys at law, real estate and loan agents. They are also sole agents, excepting M. H. Montgomery, for the Miller Town Co. W. S. Montgomery is formerly of Council Bluffs, Iowa. His father, the Honorable B. F. Montgomery, is one of the leading attorneys of Denver, Colorado and through him W.S. acquired a thorough and practical training in law, which is being turned to benefit upon a large, lucrative and constantly increasing practice. B. F. Payne is now serving his second term of Probate Judge of Hand County. He comes highly recommended from Gibson, Illinois where he was a number of years attorney for several railroads and filled important places of trust at the hands of the people. The judge is interested in a large lumber yard at Bramhall besides owning other property in Miller and St. Lawrence. Montgomery also has considerable property in the way of resident and business lots in Miller and Garlick's addition thereto.

C. H. Gardner. There is no place of business in Miller or Hand County so familiar to the general public as the Hand County Land office. It is generally conceded that for low rates and easy terms on loans, Brother Gardner "hypothecates the hoe cake." Mr. Gardner loans money on real estate in Hand and Hyde Counties, prepares final proof carefully and keeps a magnificent set of abstract books. He also makes collections, does a big insurance business and sells steamship tickets to all parts of the world and sings tenor. Mr. Gardner pays close attention to his business at his office on east Broadway, one door north of Loew and Gromann's mammoth store.

B. D. Milam. Well this man will attend to your business providing he has time, but he is kept continually on the jump making out final proof papers, and applications for loans; drawing off abstracts of titles and making collections. Mr. Milam has recently moved to elegant quarters in the new Munger building opposite the Vanderbilt Hotel. This room he has had filled up regardless of cash. Next to the Hand County Bank he has the finest safe in Hand County where he keeps by far the handsomest set of abstract books in the Huron land district. Mr. Milam also does a large insurance business.



G. O. Hutson is an attorney and counselor at law and has an extensive practice. He is also a loan and real estate agent and locates claims of all kinds. Office east Broadway between First and Second Streets.

Firestone and Weeks. We make the unqualified assertion that the firm stands in the way of transacting law, loan, land and insurance business. They buy and sell deeded lands and city property, cultivate tree claims and pay taxes for non-residents, also make final proofs and abstracts. George C. Firestone was trained in the practice of law by C. C. Cole, ex-Supreme Judge of Iowa. Mr. Firestone came to Miller April 13 and went into partnership with C. H. Weeks July 22. Mr. Weeks is formerly of Washington, Iowa where he had held the office of Deputy County Treasurer for four years, previous to his advent in Miller March 4. He was appointed Register of Deeds and ex-officio County Clerk of Hand County in September and re-elected to the same in November by a handsome majority.

J. J. Smith. The gentleman is a recent graduate of the law department of Iowa University. His former home is in Des Moines, Iowa. He started in business in Miller about August 6. He owns the building in which he offices. This building is 20 x 40 feet and two stories high costing when completed \$2000. Mr. Smith also owns four lots in Garlick's addition. He does law, real estate, and insurance business and is meeting with good success.

Corbett and Foster. One of the best known firms in Hand County is composed of Phillip Corbett and Frank P. Foster. This firm does an enormous business procuring claims in Hand, Faulk, Beadle, Buffalo, Sully and Hyde Counties. They also have large interests in the town site of Highmore, the county seat of Hyde County located on the Chicago and Northwestern twenty-three miles west of Miller. They do a large business making final proofs and loaning money for parties in Hand and Hyde Counties. These gentlemen came from Indiana and located in Miller in May. Their office is at the Vanderbilt Hotel. Correspondence solicited by Corbett and Foster, Attorneys and Counselors at law.

Vanhosen, Moon and Henyan. Attorneys at law, real estate and insurance agents. They are proprietors of the Metropoli-



tan Hall, a building 40 x 50 feet and costing \$4000. These gentlemen pay prompt attention to locating parties on homesteads, timber claims and pre-emptions. They also loan money, make final proof and buy and sell land.

Gray and White. We also take pleasure in introducing the firm of Gray and White, also attorneys at law, real estate, and loan agents. They give special attention to surveying and locating claims and furnishing plats and abstracts on most reasonable terms.

Among other locating agents we have H. L. Kelley, at C. H. Gardner's office. Charlie Persons at Corbett and Foster's office. Eudell and J. D. Miller at the Miller Town Company's office etc. etc. ad libitum.

MISCELLANEOUS. C.B. Mapel at present has the exclusive trade in lime, cement, stucco, plastering, hair and brick. Mr. Mapel is one of our first settlers and has done a great deal in booming and assisting Miller in her wonderful progress. His hand will dive for his last quarter every time in assisting any worthy enterprise.

The large business block occupied by L. A. Martz belongs to Mr. Mapel is 22 x 40 feet and two stories high and cost when completed \$3000. His lime building and property on Arno Street cost \$1700. Mr. Mapel is doing a large business also in buying and selling grain. He has recently purchased the building occupied by the Hand County Press.

ADAMS GULCH. The famous gulch of the above name is situated about five miles southwest of Miller in the Ree Hills. It opens in the east on the great Ree Valley. This gulch has 20 acres of fine heavy timber, some of the trees being 2 1/2 feet in diameter. It was located over two years ago by Frank D. Adams. There are six large springs in the gulch that never fail in the driest seasons. Near the mouth of the Gulch lies 160 acres of as fine hay as there is in the world, owned by John D. Campbell, who also has one or two claims adjoining the gulch above named. There is thus formed one of the most magnificent stock ranches in Dakota with Campbell and Adams as proprietors. Near the head of this gulch they have erected a fine two story residence at a cost of \$3000. They also have a shed 300 feet long which at present accommodates a herd of



400 sheep. They also have nearly 100 head of cattle. There are scores of other gulches in the Ree and Wessington Hills similarly adapted for stock ranches.

PHOTOGRAPHY. J. N. Templeman has recently opened a very neat gallery on Second and Arno Streets. The building is 18 x 30 feet and is divided into a reception room, operating room and one or two others. The whole cost Mr. Templeman some \$2000. Mr. Macy, the photographer, is at present in the east but will be in Miller in a few days. They do first class work and it is safe to predict a good business for Mr. Templeman. He has on hand a stock of elegant picture frames, albums, etc. The public is respectfully requested to make a call and crack the camera.

HAND COUNTY BANK. This institution opened up recently in a neat building corner of Broadway and Second Streets, and are doing a fine banking business already. The officers are as follows: J. C. Yetzer, president; J. B. Jones, vice president; A. D. Hill, cashier; J. L. Roll, assistant cashier; Isaac Dickerson, a director of Cass County Bank, Atlantic, Iowa is also largely interested in the bank. J. C. Yetzer is president of Cass County Bank at Atlantic, Iowa and Mr. Dickerson is one of the directors of the same bank. All the officers of the Hand County Bank are more or less largely interested in real estate in Iowa and make one of the strongest banking institutions in Dakota.

MEAT MARKET. R. S. Willett and Frank Torrey run the only first class rural meat market between Huron and Pierre. They supply nearly all the neighboring towns besides Miller and give the best satisfaction. Every day fresh beef, pork and mutton may be seen piled on the depot platform labeled by Willett and Torrey for St. Lawrence, Bramhall, Wessington, Highmore and even as far west as Blunt. Their building is 23 x 40 feet, two story and cost some \$2300.

LOEW AND GROMANN. If there is any business interest Miller has reason to be proud of it is the mammoth general merchandise store of Loew and Gromann. They occupy a large double room 40 x 60 feet with a \$10,000 stock of groceries and dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes. There is no heavier stock of goods in Dakota. Their dry goods depart-



ment occupies the right hand room on entering the building and is replete with dress goods of all kinds, carpets, ladies' furnishings, goods, clothing, etc. etc. all of the very latest styles and best materials. Passing through the arched position we are in the grocery department where we find staple and fancy groceries in endless variety, crockery, glassware, willow and wooden ware, canned goods of all kinds, in fact you can obtain anything under the sun at Loew and Gromann's at remarkably low cost. The upper story is divided into offices and sleeping apartments. The building cost \$4000.

L. A. Martz. One of the best natured and most popular merchants in these parts is L. A. Martz who is located in the center of the business part of Miller with one of the best groceries in Dakota. He has had years of experience in the business and knows how to buy and sell with advantage to himself and his customers. He carries a full line of all the choice staple and fancy groceries the market affords and always keeps his stock up in first class shape. He also carries a large stock of boots and shoes and keeps a first class workman repairing and manufacturing all the time. This store has won the reputation of letting goods go at the very lowest prices, which accounts for its large and constantly increasing patronage.

O. C. Jewett is the proprietor of the pioneer grocery store of Miller and he keeps his shelves crowded with all the staple and fancy groceries of the market. He keeps a full line of glassware, crockery, willow and wooden ware, all of which he sells at the lowest. Mr. Jewett owns the building in which his store is located which cost \$800.

Dr. L. Pyle also carries a fine stock of groceries, stationery, dry goods, etc. which he sells dirt cheap. The Doctor built the two story building which he occupies for about \$1700.

William McMurray also carries a large stock of groceries, clothing, boots and shoes, etc. etc. worth some \$5000.

J. N. Gass is proprietor of one of the best general merchandise stores in Central Dakota. He always keeps a fresh and choice stock of staple and fancy groceries, a fine line of boots and shoes, gloves and mittens, and his prices defy competition. His building, lot and stock is worth probably \$4000.



L. W. Arnold has just opened a splendid new stock of harness, saddles, blankets, robes, whips and everything that equips a first class harness shop. Mr. Arnold is a superior workman and every set of harness he makes wears for years. He owns the building and lot he occupies which, with stock is worth \$1000.

J. B. Daniels carries a heavy line of harness and everything else to be procured of a harness dealer. He carries a stock worth \$1000.

FURNITURE. B. F. Stamm conducts the only furniture store in Miller. He has just filled his capacious store with a tremendous stock of goods that will compare favorably with any furniture store in South Dakota. It is not all ordinary furniture, as he has some elegant parlor and bedroom sets fit to adorn the house of a lord. You should remember also that Stamm's prices are too low to justify anyone going east to buy furniture. His stock and property cost all told \$4500.

NEWS STAND. D. W. Knapper keeps a first class news stand near the center of the business part of Miller. He keeps constantly on hand all the leading periodicals. In connection with this he operates a first class restaurant.

BOOK STORE. W. H. Miller runs a first class book and stationery store in the Postoffice room. He has a stock worth some \$1000.

MILLINERY. Mrs. F. M. Mead is running a first class millinery business at the residence of F. M. Mead on West Hill. Misses Van Hosen and Legan are also doing a first class millinery business in the Loew and Gromann's block.

CHURCHES. The Presbyterian and Methodist societies have a strong following here. Rev. A. S. Foster is pastor of the former congregation and Rev. Weir of the latter. Services are held at present in the Metropolitan Hall each Sabbath, one denomination having services in the morning and the other in the evening. Both societies have purchased lots and will erect churches in the spring.

SCHOOLS. Dr. S. E. Morse is conducting the city schools



at present over Loew and Gromann's double store. There is an attendance at present of 60 pupils. Arrangements have been made for erecting a commodious school building, early in the spring, the Town Company having already set aside lots for that purpose.

**PHYSICIANS.** Of those who administer to our sick- which are imported are; Dr. O. B. Thompson, Dr. L. Pyle and Dr. S. E. Morse.

**JEWELRY.** C. E. Smith is proprietor of as fine a jewelry store as is found along the Chicago and Northwestern between Huron and Pierre. His large stock of silver-plated ware was considerably reduced by the holiday season, but he is expecting a large invoice every day and everything to be found in a first class jewelry store can be obtained at C. E. Smith's.

**POSTOFFICE.** In October 1881 the Postoffice was established at Miller with W. H. Miller as postmaster who still retains that position. The sale of stamps averages \$275 per month and box rent \$23 per month. W. H. Miller has been fortunate enough to secure the services of Miss Emma Acklen of Atlantic, Iowa to manage the office. Miss Acklen has had several years experience in postoffice duties at her former home which she performed in an able and creditable manner.

**BLACKSMITHING.** C. Sullivan does a general blacksmith and repairing business on Arno Street on which street also is the blacksmith shop of J. D. Laurence, the pioneer blacksmith of Hand County.

**ICE BUSINESS.** John Grumstad, a Miller pioneer, has erected a 40 x 60 foot ice house with a capacity for 400 tons of ice. Willett and Torrey are also putting up several hundred tons of ice. S. Boatman has put up half a hundred tons of ice also.

**BARBER SHOP.** L. W. and George Myers run a first class barber shop on Broadway and are doing a thriving business.

**FLOUR, FEED AND GRAIN.** Rank and Young are doing an exclusive business in this line. Their building and vacant lot adjoining cost some \$2000. They also own lots on Arno Street.



**BOOTS AND SHOES.** Fred R. Clark carries the only exclusive stock of boots and shoes in Miller and is working up a fine trade. As a manufacturer he has no superior. His building, lot and stock cost nearly \$1200.

**DENTISTS.** Dr. W. H. Barker, office in Munger's new block.

**MUSICAL.** Prof. W. H. Westcott gives vocal instructions twice each week to a singing class of 40 pupils. The Miller orchestra is composed of L. W. Arnold, S. L. Sage, H. Newmire, J. H. Westcott, William Weber and Lew Dawson.

**COAL.** W. W. Emmons, bought out the coal business of F. M. Mead October 10. He supplies the entire demand of Miller and vicinity. He keeps constantly on hand 100 tons of soft coal and about 50 tons of hard coal. He orders the coal ahead so as to keep the market constantly stocked. Mr. Emmons and lady came to Miller September 6 from Iowa City, Ia.

**CARPENTERS.** Among our contractors and builders we have H. A. Smith and J. H. Westcott, John T. Cartwright, H. Newmire, Macy Brothers, R. A. Post, W. B. Young, H. A. Atkeson, R. N. Ross, D. W. Prentice, H. E. Herrick and Mr. Wilson.

**PLASTERERS.** J. V. Munger and Thomas Carewel. The latter is the father of the first child born in Miller which important event occurred September 12, 1882.

**MILLER TOWN COMPANY** is composed of the following gentlemen: W. H. and E. J. Miller, J. C. Yetzer, Isaac Dickerson, J. B. Jones, and A. D. Hill. Their office is in the rear of the Hand County Bank. M. H. Montgomery is agent for the town company's lots. This gentleman is enterprising and full of vim and business. He is one of Miller's best boomers.

Garlick and Wilkins are the proprietors of an addition to the townsite of Miller on the west comprising 80 acres.

Early business men of Miller listed in a picture dated 1901 are: F. E. Saltmarsh, groceries; J. H. Cole, attorney at law;



C. F. Erichsen, meat market; C. M. Williams, dray line, E. M. Dunn, city marshall; E. W. Cottrell, barber; J. T. Redmond, hardware; C. C. Campbell, confectionery; M. Cahalan, meat market; C. H. Henshaw, hotel; G. A. Stout, foreman of Hand County Press; S. L. Wilcox, sheriff; G. C. Briggs, county judge; L. D. Sweetland, physician; T. P. Sutphen, general merchandise; E. H. Wilson, dentist; S. V. Ghrist, attorney; J. D. Fitzgerald, druggist; J. P. Dunn, deputy postmaster; C. E. Sontag, jeweler; W. Hurst, northwest saloon; G. C. Stoner, photographer; George Hazen, Chicago and Northwestern operator; J. L. Keys, official abstractor; William Miller, original townsite owner; Henry Miller, founder of Miller; W. G. Redmond, hardware; J. P. Morrell, deputy treasurer; William Fenton, billiard parlors; N. Rasmussen, general merchandise; S. R. Wallis, phisician and surgeon; George Preston, harness; T. N. Wade, harness; Charles Miller, register of deeds; J. D. Miller, Miller Roller Mills; W. H. Waters, Citizens Bank; William Healy, Miller Gazette; J. A. Bushfield, postmaster; John Pusey, attorney; Thomas Kelley, County Treasurer; Ole Ptomason, Owl Restaurant; Nate Johnson, confectionery; G. H. Carroll, real estate; D. A. McCoy, lumber and coal; George Jeffrey, machinery; J. W. Coquillette, general merchandise; A. E. Bills, Miller Bank; O. H. Collins, druggist. - - -



Fifth generation Millers living in Miller. Left to right; Glenn Eugene, Linda Marie and Robert Lee, children of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Miller.



## FARMERS

as listed in January 3, 1883 issue of Hand County Press:

George W. Livingston is one of the pioneer settlers of Hand County and one of our most prominent and solid farmers. He came from Hamline County, Iowa in February last and settled northeast of town on the creek which bears his name. Mr. Livingston has just entered upon his second term as County Commissioner and has the respect and confidence of the entire county, his name having been placed on BOTH tickets at the last election.

Peter and William Olsen are also among the early settlers. They came February last from Audubon County, Iowa and located four miles northeast of Miller. They each have 320 acres of wheat, 150 acres were broken the past year. Peter informs us that he intends to break 200 acres this year. The brothers have good houses and other improvements, among which is a barn 64 feet long.

S. S. Winters came to Hand County at an early date and secured two good claims 12 miles from Miller. He has built a good house and barn and other improvements, costing about \$3000. He has broken about 200 acres and will this year probably double that figure.

Mark Lester located north of town early last spring and now has a finely improved farm with house, barn, etc. making a pleasant home.

Andrew Maiden, another early settler, also has a well cultivated farm north of town.

Curtis Turner living three miles south of Bramhall has one of the best locations in range 69 and is "well fixed." He has a splendid well of living water and some fine blooded stock, cows and pigs. When he came to Bramhall he was an invalid of many years standing but is much improved and predicts a permanent recovery of health.

Among the early settlers of range 70 may be remembered Dr. R. L. Smith who was the first resident of that now pleasant retreat, the "Valley of the Turtle." This really is six miles north of Bramhall and it is one of peculiar beauty and loveliness. The Dr. has valuable lands there and has named his place "River Side," and to his friends the latch string is always out.



The Wilson family, eight miles northeast of Bramhall on the Turtle, consisting of the parents and several sons and daughters are among the first and solid citizens of that pleasant locality. They went there early and secured valuable claims, well watered by Turtle Creek, now called Wolf, amounting to six quarter sections, where they are settled and being practical farmers and amply able they propose to develop the utmost possibilities of Dakota soil and climate.

Christian Halbig, a blacksmith, came from Galen, Illinois in 1882. He was also a wagonmaker. He walked across country from Mitchell to the Halbig homestead which is the Charles F. Halbig farm.

James Bryson came from Chicago to Hand County January 4, 1882 and settled in section 6 township 112 range 67. He has a good dwelling, costing about \$450, also barn and other improvements. Mr. Bryson is one of the best known and most popular men in the county.

A. L. McWhorter is one of the earliest of the pioneers of Hand County. He came from Altoona, Iowa, and located on a claim which joins Miller townsite. He also has an excellent tree claim near Ree Heights. "Mac" has broken more land than any other man in the county, 200 acres, a large portion of which was planted to crop.

Professor Thompson of Ames, Iowa College where he is engaged during the year is Professor of Mechanical Engineering. He has recently erected a beautiful and pleasant residence called "Classic Hill Cottage," where he is now with his family spending vacation. It is three miles west of Bramhall and affords a splendid view of the town.

A. J. Gifford has a well improved farm southwest of town with over 100 acres of breaking; also good dwelling and barn. Mr. Gifford's farm produced the past year a fine crop of flax on sod.

William Miller, two miles east of Bramhall, was one of the first farmers in range 69. He broke 20 acres last spring and raised 15 bushels of wheat per acre of good quality on sod.

M. B. Buffin, one mile and a half northwest of Bramhall has 50 acres broken and erected for himself a beautiful cottage and barn. He has some blooded cows and thoroughbred Plymouth Rocks. His place is called "Fairview Cottage."



## DWELLINGS

On January 4, 1882 the day of the first publication of the Hand County Press only one dwelling was built on the town-site of Miller, if we except the hotels. Now they are numbered by the dozens. We will mention a few.

Mrs. McMurray has a well finished dwelling 22 x 22 feet on Hand Street, one of the pleasantest locations in town. Her house and lot is worth \$1000. F. M. Mead's dwelling on the same street, 18 x 26 feet is a fine building and cost \$1500.

Early in 1882 John Morrow came with his family from Audubon, Iowa and being favorably impressed with the projects of Miller immediately commenced the erection of a fine two story residence which cost when finished \$2500. Mr. Morrow owns the magnificent Vanderbilt Hotel.

J. N. Templeman has a neat and substantial residence on Hand Street.

One of the handsomest residences in Miller is on Second Street owned by W. W. Emmons. It is 24 x 28 feet occupying two lots and is worth all together \$2300.

J. G. Herschelman owns a neat residence on Hand Street 14 x 16 feet worth \$750.

Immediately south of this is the pioneer residence of Miller owned by George Seward of the Hand County Press. The first edition of this paper was published in this house.

Rev. A. S. Foster has a neat residence on upper Hand Street worth \$700.

Hudson Chubbuck owns a very good dwelling 14 x 22 feet on the west side worth \$800.

Mr. Glasson has a good house on Second Street. George Thomas, J. D. Lawrence and C. W. Gould each have comfortable dwellings on the west side of town.

G. H. Carrol owns a comfortable 14 x 16 foot house in the same locality and so has S. Boatman.

On the first street is W. E. Rowlands residence 22 x 28 feet and costing \$1000.

Mr. Nelson, we might state in this connection, owns a residence on the west side of Miller.

E. J. Miller has a new and handsome edifice on Ettie Street, 22 x 22 which cost him \$1000.

C. A. Stearns, the depot agent, has a very comfortable dwelling on the east side of Miller worth \$800.



W. G. White has another on Channing Street.

William Marks also has one on the same street, 16 x 24, worth \$500.

Albert Moffat owns one of the best dwelling houses in town built by H. A. Atkeson and worth \$1100.

J. D. Fitzgerald has a handsome house on the east side of Miller worth \$875. So also has C. N. Van Hosen.

W. H. Stout has a first class residence on Channing Street worth \$950.

George Sturgis has an office building on Broadway. Mr. Sturgis has a claim near town with 218 acres broken.

J. P. Stinger has a two story building on Broadway worth, with lot, \$3000.

G. C. Firestone has a dwelling on Broadway which is furnished in splendid style. Cost \$800.

Peter Adams has a residence on Channing Street, 16 x 20.

Henry Miller has a good dwelling south of the railroad.



## BIOGRAPHIES - Do you remember?

From the Compendium of Biography, vol. 1, Central S.D.

W. H. Miller left an impress of his individuality upon the business, political, social and moral life of Hand County. He was the fourth son of Henry Miller. He was postmaster for a number of years and founded and edited the Hand County Press, the first newspaper, and he became interested in the Townsite company. He sold the plant and paper to Dr. Sweetland. He was a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge and a trustee and member of the school board and always had a deep interest in the welfare of the town and county. He died at the age of 35.

Charles Miller, a genial and pleasant man, came to Miller in March 1883 and was part owner of the Miller Roller Mills.

John Doug Miller came to Hand County in 1881 and his land was the northeast quarter section 15. He began platting the town and selling town property and was in the real estate business. He married Adda L. McWhorter in 1891. He was the first deputy sheriff and was constable for many years. He was in the elevator business in later years. "Hand County has no citizen who more justly deserves the respect of the people."

Eudell J. Miller was associated with his father in many enterprises and with his brother W. H. in editing the paper that was the only daily paper in the county during the county seat contest.

From other sources:

Hannibal B. remained in Iowa and three of the children died in infancy.

Homer Mack was in the mill business and when that was disposed of he had a farm south of town. He and brother Ed were the farmers in the family. Later Mack was in the elevator business in St. Lawrence and retired and went to California.

Ed was the youngest son and had the Miller farm southwest of town.

Carrie was the only daughter and she married Pert Coquette.

All the Millers were musical and sang and played instruments.

Compendium of Biography states that -

Jacob H. Cole, one of the most successful and popular at-



torneys of Miller, owed his success to his own efforts. He was born February 3, 1859 in Marion County, Iowa. His parents were natives of Holland and came to the U. S. in 1847. Cole received his early education at Pella, Iowa and came to Miller in 1883. His devotion to the public good arose from a sincere interest in the welfare of his fellowmen.

Thomas Trythall was born in Cornwall, England December 11, 1857 and came with his parents to America in 1867 and to Dakota Territory in 1883. He was County Commissioner from 1893 to 1896 and had a farm in Alpha Township.

D. Porter Cree came from Pennsylvania in 1883 to a half section of land on Wolf Creek. He handles 150 head of stock annually. His father was William Cree who came here from Pennsylvania in 1882 to Greenleaf Township. His brother Ira Cree came also in 1882.

Dr. Lorenzo Sweetland was born in Ohio August 12, 1844. In 1866 he began reading medicine. He came to Dakota Territory in the spring of 1883 to a claim in Ohio Township.

Percy Wilson was a successful agriculturist and sheep raiser in Greenleaf Township and one of the founders and builders of Greenleaf Congregational Church. He was born March 13, 1830, came to Dakota Territory in 1882 and was the first settler in Greenleaf Township. He had Shropshire sheep. Dr. E. H. Wilson, dentist, is his son.

Citizens Bank was founded November 1883 by William H. Waters who was born in New York March 17, 1844. He was a sailor on the Great Lakes until 1871. He came to Miller in 1883. William and Mina Waters were the parents of Glenn Waters. They built what was known as the "Boy's Dorm."

M. C. Arbogast who settled in Mondamin Township was born in Missouri in 1876 and settled in Hand County in 1884.

G. C. Briggs was in the land, loan and insurance business in Miller.

John Struif came to Hand County in 1885 and was one of our farmers. He was born in New York City in 1851.

George Ufen of Logan Township was born in Germany and served three years in the German army. He came to Hand County in 1897.

C. C. Campbell who lived in Pleasant Valley Township was a civil engineer, land surveyor, deputy state surveyor and city engineer.

Listed in the 1910 atlas we note, S. V. Ghrist, W. S. Tho-



mas, (Co. treasurer); R. A. Yerdon, Percy Nicholas, J. A. Clouse, A. W. Wade, P. A. Kane.

The Hon. Arno L. McWhorter, real estate, then breeding fine horses and farming in Midland Township. He was born in 1843 and died in 1910. He filed on a pre-emption of the quarter owned by Harlan Bushfield October 12, 1881. He started some men building a house and barn on the southeast corner and returned to Altoona, Iowa for his family, goods and chattels. He arrived in Miller with his family February 17, 1882. There were five children, Tyler, Adda, Arie, Fanny and Port. Two girls, Arie and Fanny died in '83 and '84. The McWhorters continued to live in Miller till about 1894 when they moved to a farm near Ree Heights and raised trotting horses. Later Port attended Drake University at Des Moines and the Medical Department of the U. of Illinois at Chicago. He graduated in 1904 and practiced in Miller until he left for California in 1926.

A. L. McWhorter was a member of the Legislature the winter of 1896-1897, the winter of the deep snow. The elderly McWhorter platted the McWhorter addition to the town.

William C. Greeves filed on 160 acres of land in Pleasant Valley Township in the fall of 1882, later the Gus Hamilton place. His wife was Yreka and their daughter Delia May, now Mrs. Nat Sutton, tells us that she was born there May 8, 1886.

Tommy Grant will be remembered as having hauled many loads of bones to town.

Judge G. H. Carroll promoted dairy farming here. They came from Iowa in 1882. The dairy business was good and there was plenty of butter but that year there was no wheat and nothing to put the butter on. His son Charles tells of how his father once priced butter at Rockham and it was 4¢ per pound so he came home and found that Percy Coquillette was paying 5¢ per pound for it. Once the Judge was riding in the country and the axle on his buggy needed oiling when he neared the Batchman farm in Pleasant Valley Township. Ordinarily the axles were oiled with castor oil but having none Mrs. Batchman gave him butter to use for oil.

Dr. E. H. Wilson. Any difficulty here in locating Dr. E. H. Wilson's office can't be blamed on it's having been moved to a new location for he has practiced in the same office above the Hand County Bank for over a half century.

Dr. Wilson, a familiar figure, was only five years old when



his father, Percy Wilson, pioneered near Lake Louise in north Hand County. After he grew to manhood he attended Northwestern University in Chicago and was graduated there in 1899. He taught school for a time and his first term paid him \$25 per month. The term included just three months during the spring but that winter he taught six months at \$28 per month. Room, board and laundry were \$2.50 per week. During vacations he practiced dentistry. The University presented him with a fifty year certificate in 1949 and the Masonic Lodge presented him with a fifty year medal.

Dr. Wilson has been a member of the State Board of Dental Examiners for ten years, is a Past President of S. D. Dental Association. He has been particularly interested in Boy Scout work and it was largely through his efforts that Camp Dakota came into being. His civic interests have been far reaching and successful.

Adda Leola McWhorter was born June 20, 1871 in Polk Co. Iowa. She was the daughter of Arno L. McWhorter and Lydia Ann Willett McWhorter. She arrived February 18, 1882 with her father and his family in Miller, Dakota Territory and their home was located in the northeast part of town.

As a public school had not been started, the children of the settlers attended six different private schools. In other words, well-meaning citizens would undertake the education of the children for a short time - or as long as they could stand it. The parents paid \$2.00 per child and furnished their own books, tables and chairs. The first teacher was A. M. Chubbuck. The second, Mr. C. N. Van Hosen, a lawyer, who had his office in the same building as the school, gave the children a very liberal education in law-- first hand. Another teacher, Dr. Morse, gave the children first hand lessons in medicine as he attended his patients. One day he pulled a tooth for a woman while the students looked on.

Adda Miller's father, Mr. McWhorter, was instrumental in bringing about the first church service. He introduced the preacher, Rev. Pomeroy from Huron. Adda Miller was married April 15, 1891 to John Douglas Miller, a member of the first group to arrive in Miller. To this union was born five children, Lee Douglas, Charles Windsor, Fanny, Veda and John Lynn. She led a full life in looking after her family and taking an active part in the development of Miller. Although crippled by arthritis for some thirty years, she maintained a sincere interest in the growth of Miller. She died at her home



in Miller March 17, 1953.

(Mrs. Miller was a member of the Order of Eastern Star for forty-seven years.)

John L. Pyle who became Attorney General of South Dakota was the father of Gladys Pyle.

A brother-in-law of Pyle was G. W. Parkey who had a machine business here and later lived northwest of town.

Bramhall was located five miles east of Ree Heights. There was a local paper published there called the Bramhall News. The town did not succeed because of the lack of water.

Hand County was created by the legislative assembly of Dakota Territory on January 8, 1873. It was given the name of Hand after George H. Hand in 1882.

A little story is told about Rev. McBeth and his activities as a horse trader. One day he drove into Jerry Yost's farm and his team was practically tired out. Yost offered him a single horse to drive while his team rested in the pasture. The horse was rather balky and the driver had to be ready to go as soon as the horse was hitched up. To try her out the men started to drive her down the road and when they were coming to a hill Yost told McBeth to grab the wheel when they got going too fast. McBeth replied that he couldn't grab the wheel, he couldn't even see the spokes. His final remark: "She often balked but when she did start he was always on time for church."

E. O. Reck established the furniture store and undertaking business here in 1910, later to be carried on by his wife and son Jack.

J. W. Johnson and his grocery and dry goods store and various other businesses will always be remembered here. J. W. tried to make people happy by selling reasonably.

The Henyans lived across the street east from the Catholic church.

Mr. Sutphen had the store before J. W. Johnson bought it.

G. W. Cross had the photograph gallery here but left Miller after his studio burned with the Johnson store. Later he died in California.

As a child we remember the day the business men of Chicago came through the town and made the black and yellow markings on the first highway here that later was changed and developed into Highway 14 today.

Pvt. Frank Myers, Co. B. 6th Ia. Cavalry, and father of Mrs. Billy Waters had a booklet printed by the Huronite Prin-



ting office at Huron in 1888 entitled, "Soldiering in Dakota, Among the Indians in 1863-4-5." This book contains experiences encountered by Mr. Myers in a perilous expedition through the Dakotas to the Yellowstone country, when there was scarcely any settlement west or north of the Iowa border. Pvt. Myers was sent out with other troops after the War to hold back the Indians. They stopped in the beautiful grove at St. Lawrence and then went on to other places. He came back here finally and lived and many folks remember how he used to interpret for Tommy Fastwalker, an Indian Scout who saved a white woman from the Indians.

Ostrander Land Co. The C. O. Ostrander Land Co. issued a souvenir views booklet in 1907 that exemplified our Hand County. "Intended for the enlightenment of those who know but little of our resources, and to assist home-seekers in determining their destination." The booklet advises that Hand County has 40 congressional townships and 921,600 acres of as fertile land as can be found within the borders of the state.

Views are given of fine town residences, schools, churches, banks, lumber yards, the mill and elevators, farmers waiting their turn at the Miller Board of Trade and teams and wagon loads of grain, farm and ranch homes and scenes. One picture shows fifteen stacks of headed grain that yielded 20 bushels per acre and would produce 30 bushels if the grain were properly cared for. (It did not say what kind of grain.)

People at that date were improving their livestock herds and receiving larger returns for their labor and investments. "It is nothing to see 500 head of cattle and 250 head of horses on the ranch of Judge Carroll, who has been a resident of Hand County for over 20 years, and who is always ready to give good advice and lend a helping hand to new settlers. Horses are grown and fattened on the native grasses of the Carroll ranch."

An illustration of a push binder showed but an everyday scene during the harvest season, used exclusively for several reasons, mainly that the farmers could cover twice as much ground in a day as could be done with most any other make of machine. With six good horses forty acres of heavy grain is not considered a very big day's harvesting.

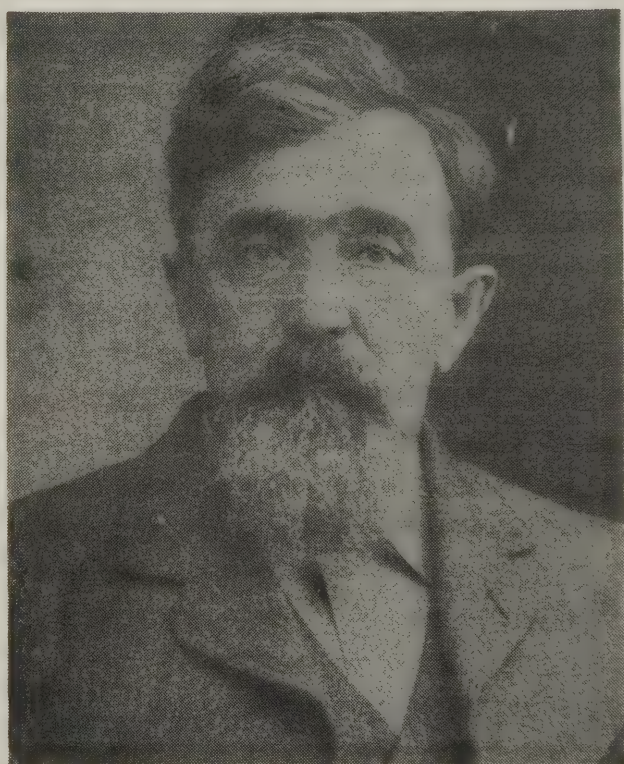
"To people who imagine that Hand County is not a corn producing country we would be pleased to have them call and see the bins and cribs of corn that are usually to be found on the Will Collins farm."



A picture of the Siegling barn is shown in the booklet stating that the structure was supposed to be the biggest barn in the northwest.

Ten Don'ts given in the Ostrander book: "Don't eat when not hungry, Don't ever get angry, Don't drink in a hurry, Don't tolerate worry, Don't make work of exercise, Don't make light of good advice, Don't ever take half breath, Don't thus court an early death, Don't doubt Divine Design. Don't squander precious time and fail to buy a farm from the Ostrander Land Co., Miller, South Dakota. Nature does the rest."

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James O. Dean

James O. Dean, Burdette postmaster. Mrs. Myrtle Dornberger of Sioux Falls tells us this about her father, James O. Dean, one of our early settlers: He arrived in Miller in 1883 and had a homestead in Burdette township. He built the first store there and named the town; he was also the postmaster and drove a mail route between Miller and Redfield for many years. He was Representative from Hand County at one time.

He had gone to St. Lawrence for a load of coal the day of the bliz-

zard of 1888 but turned back after he had gone as far as the Hoover place or it might have been a different story.

There were six of the Dean children; Robert Lee, James Roy, Cassie Olive (Mrs. B. T. Bowles) all three deceased; Mrs. Dornberger, Charles Ralph, now postmaster at Rockham and Ruth (Mrs. S. S. Lloyd) in California. Mrs. Dean had come with her husband from Mercer Co., Illinois to experience the life of a pioneer wife.

Mr. Dean died in 1923 and Mrs. Dean in June 1932 and



they were both 79 years old at the time of their passing.

Elmer Templeman's Meat Market was a landmark on Main street for years and years. We remember Mom telling us to "run over to Elmer's and get a pound of hamburger for supper." Elmer died in May 1953. Elmer rode horseback to Dakota from Iowa. He started out from his Iowa home when he was 18 years old in 1890 and led a pack horse. He stopped at Holstein, Iowa and worked for some time. When he arrived in Dakota it was for the second time, since he had formerly come here with his parents in the early '80's. He was quiet and unassuming but he enjoyed people and folks liked to visit with him in his meat market.

Rev. Swartout came up from Gann Valley about the year 1906 and served Pleasant Valley Congregational Church for several years as pastor.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was laid from Tracy, Minn. to Pierre in the fall of 1880 crossing central Hand County. An engine was sent out from Huron once a week during the winter of 1880-1881.

The Charles Shepherds were the first people in Hand County and during the severe winter there was no train from January to May. One man died and he had to be kept frozen until spring when he could be shipped home for burial.

Mrs. James Loomis was the first white child in the County. Her husband James Loomis, who came from Hyde County, still lives in St. Lawrence, and is an ardent story teller of his experiences during the pioneer days.

Fred D. Greene was a pioneer in banking in So. Dak. He retired from the Huron Branch of the National Bank of S. D. in 1939 and he and Mrs. Greene went to California to make their home. He died in California. He is survived by his wife and two sons, John Lowell of Escanaba, Mich. and Frederick T. of Delmar, N.Y. Mrs. Greene is the former Mabelle Huntley of Wessington Springs. They were married in 1905 while both attended Yankton College. A sister, Mrs. Elva Bard of Miller survives. Prior to his retirement in 1939 Mr. Greene had been associated with banks at Highmore and Miller for 42 years. He organized the National Bank of S. D. in Huron in 1930. He was born in Carroll, Ia. in 1875 and came to Dakota with his grandparents in April 1894 after attending the University of Wisc. for three years. He was 21 years old when he was first employed by the First State Bank of Highmore. Later he became a partner and then sold his interest



and bought into the Miller Bank. He was an active member of First Presbyterian Church here.

A. B. Cahalan. (Reprinted courtesy "Commercial West" a bankers magazine and written by M. C.) "A chapter closed in the history of the town of Miller when Arthur B. Cahalan was advanced from president of the First National Bank to office of the chairman of the board. Mr. Cahalan has been so long and so prominently associated with that institution that one can hardly think of it existing without him.

Throughout the 45 years of his service to the people of the community through the bank, Mr. Cahalan has been progressive in foreseeing the present and future possibilities of this area for farming and stock raising. He has had a prominent part in furthering these enterprises and his counsel and help have been of the best to friends and customers. The bank has been growing and progressing, coming safely through the great depression of the early 30's and emerging from that trial stronger than ever.

In February 1902, while attending school A. B. started working in the bank and he has seen it come up from an institution with a capital structure of \$15,000 and deposits of under \$75,000 to it's present position as one of the outstanding banking institutions of the state with assets of five million. He has been a student of the Graduate School of Banking, Rutgers University; he hadn't worked long at the bank until he became one of its executives. In 1930 he became president of the bank and has held that position since. (1947) He promoted "better livestock" and the growing of alfalfa. He has always been the advocate of larger farm and ranch units for this section of the Northwest so that his bank became known as the "Livestock Bank." He became president of S. D. Bankers Association in 1930 and was director of the Regional Agricultural Credit Corp. of Sioux City in 1933-1938; he has been president of the Commercial Club and the Civic and Commerce Association besides being a member on the executive council of the American Bankers' Association.

He has managed several successful war bond campaigns. He has been one of the town's most prominent citizens, a supporter of good causes, a leader in progressive undertakings. Mr. Cahalan believes in softening the cold walls of a banking institution, therefore the walls of the lobby of First National Bank are adorned with livestock canvasses. Some of these are by Harvey Dunn and Gray Bartlett."



Mr. Cahalan, in an interview, told us that his father came to Miller from Claremont, Iowa in 1884, looking for free land as many other settlers. Art and his mother came later and he remembers how his father ran a butcher shop and was in the ice business with the ice house where the Standard Oil Station is now. The sawdust thick and full of tiny snakes. People came and bought five cents worth of ice.

He recalls how he began work in the bank having to sweep out after school. His first desk job there was sending out needles as souvenirs.

Milam had the first private bank in Miller and later the First State Bank took over and became First National Bank in 1903.

Alfred E. Bills was another Hand Co. banker and a great Methodist who believed in having prayer meetings, morning ones. (Later he moved to Zion, Ill. and when he died left his property to the Zionites.) He was a religious eccentric. In his banking business he loaned money on horses and many times had to take the horses in payment for the loans. He kept a livery stable and a jockey to care for the horses. He organized prayer meetings at the Methodist Church and to jolt the backsliders he had a cannon in which he used gunpowder, firing it off to startle the people. Some local jokesters one day put an extra load of gunpowder in the cannon after Bills had already loaded it and so when he fired it there was a terrific blast that broke windows in the church and neighboring homes.

Harlan J. Bushfield. Not every small town can boast having had a Governor and a United States Senator and Miller can well be proud of the record of Harlan J. Bushfield who was Governor of S. D. from 1939 to 1943 and U. S. Senator from 1943 until his death on Sept. 27, 1948. He was born in Atlantic City, Iowa, Aug. 6, 1862 and moved with his parents to Miller in 1883; he attended school here and was graduated from Dakota Wesleyan at Mitchell in 1901, from the Minnesota University Law School in 1904, was admitted to the bar that year and began practice in Miller. In 1936 he was appointed Chairman of the S. D. State Republican party. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the S. D. Bar Association, the Masonic and Odd Fellow lodges, the National Grange, and a member of the Presbyterian Church. He had an honorary law degree from the U. of Wisconsin and was interested in farming and had the interests of the Hand



County farmers at heart. Many times he stood alone in his voting in the Senate.

From the Memorial Address delivered in Congress for the Senator we quote: "The thought has often crossed my mind that Harlan Bushfield typified South Dakotans. He was honest, forthright to the point of bluntness, independent in thought, and large and rugged physically. He ascribed these qualities to others, too, and he was impatient with the sly, the devious, and the cunning wherever encountered. That is typical, I think, of South Dakotans. I must merely observe that he served his State and Nation eminently well; that he was a constructive force for good, and that he leaves us all a rich and inspirational legacy of memories of a public servant whose devotion to principle was unswerving."

Mrs. Jane Cook, who lived north of Vayland, died when 92 years old. She was born May 17, 1862 and came to South Dakota with her parents from Iowa, one of seventeen children. Mrs. Cook was a familiar figure in Miller where she came to shop at least once a week and among her memories were the log house where the family lived and the furniture they had made by hand. They ate corn bread and flax and made their own coffee from parched corn. The land was timberland and they had first to clear the land before they could farm it. They shelled corn, planted it and hoed it all by hand. She died at the farm.

Albert Churchill. One of the early day merchants was Albert Churchill and children of that era remember well his big store where there was penny candy to be had, tiny tin pans with fondant eggs and little tin spoons, all for one cent, suckers, jaw breakers! There were barrels of crackers and dill pickles, and small barrels of white grapes packed in sawdust. Churchill was 84 years old when he died in 1955. He was born December 19, 1870 in Clay County, he pioneered there, attended school and prepared to teach. He came to Hand County in 1894 and taught school in Rockdale Township, homesteaded and farmed there. He began work in H. R. Greeves' store and in the general store of P. W. Coquillet which he later bought and ran as a general store for many, many years. (The Coffee Cup building was the Churchill store.) He established the first rest room in Miller for the benefit of his patrons. He married Olga Maud Hawk May 18, 1902.

Henry Morrow. He was one of the longest time residents



of Miller still living here at the time of his death in 1955. He was born in Iowa January 5, 1870 and came with his parents to Dakota Territory in March 1882. They lived at one time on a farm eleven miles south of Miller. He taught the first shcool to open on Tanner Hill in Ohio Township. Elsewhere we have some of the early day stories told to us by Mr. Morrow.

Lloyd Frye was born in Chicago Junction, Ohio March 25, 1862. He came with his parents to Ohio Township in 1884 and when they returned to Ohio he settled on Section 3 in Pleasant Valley Township where he lived until he moved to Miller in 1943, the township's bachelor. "There was a man who lived by the side of the road." He had no family and his chief occupation was looking after the welfare of his fellowman and helping out in emergencies that arose. He made special trips to see that all was well with his neighbors. Often he went over to see that the tractor was running all right, or that the well was in good working order. (He was a well man). Many people came to Lloyd to have threads cut on pipe, have him come to repair their wells, to do some carpenter work or to borrow his tools. Often he made a trip to town for the neighbor who couldn't spare the time to go. The little girl with whom he shared dill pickles and peppermints will always remember him. His droll wit and humor caused many hearty fits of laughter. He sang in the Pleasant Valley choir for many years and at one time he owned a grand piano. He remains a tradition in the neighborhood. His favorite Bible verse was "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

Mrs. Mae Boles will be 88 years old September 12, 1956. She was the first child born in the state of Iowa. She and Grant, her husband, were early day people here. They lived in the country, southwest of town and came to live in Miller in 1909.

Women of the early days had many and varied experiences. Mrs. R. Drew of Highmore is compiling the histories of these pioneer women of S. D. One of them rode to the Territory behind high stepping horses, her honeymoon was behind a runaway team. Some of them were met by their husbands-to-be with the fashionable stone boats. Men walked to the Black Hills and carried along butter that the women made. One carried 100 lbs. and sold it at 6¢ per pound. There was little furniture, there was no such thing as money for many of them.

Mrs. Henry Scott rode over Spring Hill Township to orga-



nize a church.

Mrs. Shepherd at St. Lawrence had a two room shack and used it for a school room, the bed was taken out in the daytime and put in at night.

Mary Lane came in May and the birds were everywhere on the road west of town.

Teachers received \$15 per month and music lessons were 25¢. One woman sold a cow to buy an organ.

Mrs. Charles Halbig, a teacher, said she believed that where people can wear muddy shoes and smile, things are all right in S. D.

Mrs. Burrell didn't know how to run her new cook stove so she built the fire on top as she did her hearth. The shanty was filled with smoke and she hailed a passing preacher in 1889 who helped her put out the fire.

A pioneer is described in the dictionary as "one who goes before to pave the roads so that we can travel easier." These women pioneers did the paving for the present generation.

Our book wouldn't be complete without a wee tribute to Dr. Clara Betts Owens, who has pioneered up and down our country roads, ministering to the sick and has spent her life striving to aid people and make them well. Often her ministrations have been without thanks and little financial remuneration but Dr. Clara has never faltered, even when a broken hip threatened to stop her work. May she have many more years of service to her fellowmen!

Two St. Lawrence Nonagenarians. From homespun to plastics has been the experience of two nonagenarians of St. Lawrence who lived but half a block apart.

Grandma Francis Berry was born in Lexington, Mich. in 1857 and made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Zach Taylor, until her death in 1950 at the age of 93. She taught school in Buffalo, N. Y. and after coming to Dakota Territory in 1883 she taught for one year. She married James Berry in 1886 and they homesteaded near Ree Heights with their first home on the prairie, a sod house with four tiny windows. She remembered prairie fires and the Big Blizzard, the one cow, one team, pigs and chickens that they had for livestock. Among her memories was the death of Bridget Dunn, a school teacher who lost her life in the blizzard of 1888.

Mrs. Emma Thompson was born in Iowa in 1856 and before her death in 1948 at the age of 92 had ridden in everything from a covered wagon to the most modern equipment. She



married O. D. Thompson in Iowa in 1873 and they came to Dakota in 1903 and settled in St. Lawrence. Among her memories was the howling of the wolves behind the hill as well as the blizzards and prairie fires.

Mrs. Mary Adams who has lived for a number of years alone on the old homestead in Rockdale Township was 90 years old March 11. Until a few years ago she kept a cow and milked it too. She first came to Dakota Territory in 1885 to look the country over. She returned home and December 23, 1886 married Charles Adams who had filed on a homestead in Rockdale Township where he had a sod house. The Rev. Mr. Green performed the wedding ceremony for the Adams' at the Presbyterian Manse in Miller. The couple lived in the sod house for two years and later built a two room house. They moved to another quarter section in the same township that was the tree claim. Their first house there was one built by Henry Miller and used as a real estate office in Miller and was the first home of the Hand County Press. Mrs. Adams' two daughters are Mrs. Hazel Cope of Lincoln, Nebr.; and Mrs. Thelma Gammel of LaGuana, Calif. On Pioneer Day in June 1955 Mrs. Adams was the oldest lady present.

Liza Thompson, (Mrs. G.B.) came from Missouri in 1884. She and her husband had bought a relinquishment to a claim in Mondamin Township and lived there for many years. Liza was 92 September 8, 1955. She remembers how she had saved \$10 for a long time but when her husband had a desire to possess a violin to play for the square dances she gave him her money with which to buy it and she had as much enjoyment from it as he did. The Thompsons had two sons and one daughter but Grandma helped to raise her grandchildren, too. She said she and the children always went to Sunday School.

H. P. Nelson from south of town would be pleased to know that four generations of Nelsons have attended Nelson School in Ohio Township. Mr. Nelson taught there, his son Peter later taught there, Peter's daughter Anna attended there and later taught the same school and today her daughter Sherry Ann Johnson attends the school. This is true, also of Mrs. Miles Cotton, another granddaughter of Mr. Nelson who went to the school and her children went there also. David, Lewis and Al Nelson survive their parents.

Mrs. Mary Williams now of Rockford, S. D. is the oldest member of Hebron Rebekah Lodge. She is now 91.

Mrs. Emma Erwin will be 90 years old next September,



1956. She lived in Rose Hill Township for many years. Her husband was D. A. Erwin.

Until his death a few years ago Jim Redmond was the one remaining member of the famous ball team. In all the games they played they lost but one, and that was to Redfield when they had a paid pitcher.

Ote Collins had many famous race horses.

Henry Miller's name is on the seal of the city of Miller.

Myrtle Willett whose people were pioneers here went as a missionary to Japan and served there many years.

Mrs. Orville Campbell, Aunt Lizzie, had 16 children and for a long time when the 12 living children and their families gathered at home for celebrations there were some 90 present. The family circle was broken with the death of Mrs. Campbell and two sons, Jack and Clair.

Millerdale is the Hutterite colony situated nine miles south and six west of town. These people came from Milltown and purchased the Ed Miller farm.

The huge Juniper trees at the Boy's Dorm or the old Waters' place, were planted in 1885. How well we remember the many wonderful currant and gooseberry bushes at this home. The fruit was so plentiful every year that the Waters' allowed people to come and pick berries on shares. Mrs. Waters appeared as a lovely picture to our youthful eyes as we presented our fruit at the kitchen door and she measured it for us. There was a never-to-be forgotten smell of rich currant juice being made into jelly that assailed our nostrils as we waited in the kitchen door.

Mrs. Minnie Dearborn, wife of O. W. Dearborn and long time residents of Pleasant Valley Township and surrounding vicinity has left the memory of her lovely Christmas buns, made from saffron sweet roll dough and presented to her friends at Christmas made in the form of a huge bun topped by a smaller one and topped with a perky green bow.

Do you remember Hans K. Schroeder and his clothing store? Also his famous basketball players in his family, both girls and boys? Grandma Schroeder still lives in Miller.

The Welch Brothers lived in Pleasant Valley Township with Jim still living in Miller.

There are many folks who lived or did live, in our town and someone remembers every one of them. There were the Strattons, the Raffertys, the McCoys, the Rhodes, the Law-



lers, the Cummings, Bill Johnson the jeweler, Fred Johnson who played in the band, the Scenic theatre that Nate Johnson operated, Alice Carroll Cahalan who served many years on the school board and one of the first twelfth grade graduates in 1905 and her sister, Grace Carroll Redmond who sang lovely solos.

O. B. Wangsness, one of our oldest residents, was 98 years old when he died in 1952. He was born in Norway April 11, 1854, and when 14 years old came to the U. S. with his parents. The family settled in Iowa and he married Rosie Kvale who died in 1935. The Wangsness' were among the real pioneers of this state, coming to Buffalo County in 1885 and then to Hand County where they lived for forty years. They moved to Miller in 1935 after having gone through all the hardships of pioneer days. Mr. Wangsness could relate stories of Indians, rattle snakes and the blizzard of 1888. His hobby was planting various kinds of trees on his farms and watching them grow.

Seth L. Wyland whose father was Isaac Wyland, was a well known farmer and stock raiser. His faith in the future of our state was unlimited. He came to Dakota Territory from Iowa in 1882 and settled in Greenleaf Township until 1896 and then returned to Iowa and also went mining in Montana in 1885 returning to Dakota in 1890. His children were Ike and Oma. Oma belonged to the famous girls' basketball team, members of which included Cora and Esther Schroeder, Myrtle and Margery Losh.

Frank Gardner who came to Dakota Territory in 1884 was the father of Charles Gardner Sr.

The Miller Livestock Auction Company was started by men who had wide experience in breeding, production and sales of livestock. These men have also been instrumental in helping the producer produce a type of livestock that is above average in breeding and type. A sales pavilion was first opened in St. Lawrence with a Red Cross benefit March 20, 1918 by the Magness Brothers. During the good years it was successful but it closed when the price of all livestock fell. It had been built for the sale of registered stock. In 1939 the pavilion was moved to Miller and improved under management of J.M. Magness and Clayton Jennings with Dr. E. H. Sessions, veterinarian. The first sale in Miller was held July 26, 1939. When Jennings was called into service in World War II, Ted Jennings moved here from Livermore, Iowa to replace him.



Owners and operators were J. M. Magness and Jennings Brothers with Magness and Pete Knapp, auctioneers. Present owners are Kenneth Knapp and Sons and Ivan Welch, bookkeeper and office manager. Auctioneers are James and Ray Magness. Ed Magness, a brother is also an auctioneer and doesn't expect to retire till he's 105. He's now past 80 and going strong.

Jarmuth. In August 1906, L. T. Jarmuth opened the First State Bank of St. Lawrence, serving as cashier, and in 1920 became president. In 1930 he was elected vice president of First National Bank at Miller and became president in 1947. During his long career as a banker Jarmuth has seen S. D. experience and survive panics, depressions, grasshopper plagues and drouth. He has found much enjoyment and satisfaction in his years as a banker and has taken an active part in the development and civic life of Miller as well as playing a prominent role in organizations of the town.

Robert Mathews, one of our veteran barbers, came to Miller in 1907 from Salem. He remembers that the sidewalks were wooden and electric lights were turned off at midnight.

"Jack" Fintzel came from Salem to work for Mathews in 1908.

The Miller Press that began as the Hand County Press January 3, 1882 is one of the newspapers published in the county that has had a continuous existence for 75 years. John Bushfield purchased it from the Millers in 1883 with W. H. Kephart as partner. Both men came from Atlantic, Iowa. About a year and a half later Bushfield became the sole owner. It was first housed in a small building near the Hotel and later moved to the site of the present creamery. Then it was moved to the former shoe shop building of Fred Clark and in 1911 to the Bushfield building and later to the new building a block west of Main Street. Bushfield called it the Pioneer Press in 1894 and changed the name to Miller Press in 1906. Mr. and Mrs. William Tamblyn bought the paper in 1918 and operated it until he died in 1941, after which time Martha Tamblyn operated it until she sold to the Williams Co. of Spencer, Iowa. The Press has absorbed the St. Lawrence paper, the Miller Sun and Miller Gazette.

Mrs. L. L. Porter, who was Bessie Fassett, came with her parents in an immigrant car to Ree Heights in 1884. Among her memories were an incident when the family got



lost going to the farm. The blizzard was so severe that they spent the night in a haystack. The Porters often told how their wedding day was warm and the ground muddy, March 28. This couple lived in Glendale Township and endured all the hardships of the other pioneers. Their home was a sod house and they twisted hay for fuel. Once the neighbors went to town to spend the night when Indians came but Mrs. Porter was not afraid of them. They told stories of the blizzard of 1888. In 1909 Mr. Porter broke sod, 1300 acres, and seeded it to flax that yielded 10 bushels per acre and sold for \$2.10 per bushel. At one time Porter was associated with Ed Dunn in the produce business. Their children are Ralph Porter and Mrs. Cal Palmer of Miller.

Sam O'Connor was mail carrier from Miller to the John White postoffice where the Eschenbaums now live, to Dean, to Bailey southwest where the Tom Tripp land now is. The carriers drove through the big draw near the Yost farm in Pleasant Valley Township and the mail was carried three days a week. Teams were changed at Knox's and Copeland's and several places along the route.

Loren Pennock followed O'Connor as carrier. In 1903 George Dixon took over the carrier job. He used a team and at a later date before his retirement in 1918 he used a car.

Clyde Ice rode horseback to carry the mail on Route 5 and many folks remember the sacks he used- each patron had a couple of sacks so they could be changed each time the mail came.

The first air mail in S. D. was carried by Clyde Ice shortly after World War I. Ice was carrying the route from Miller to Gann Valley and the roads were impassable. He would get no credit if the mail pouch was not delivered so he flew it down to the Valley in his plane.

These county superintendents have labored for Hand County beginning with the year 1884 to the present time and in order are; R. L. Smith, G. L. Pinkham, John K. Failing, Levi Morton, J. H. Snoddy, G. H. Grace, Harry Fross, Margaret Duthie, May Rudd, Jessie Moncur, Addie Welch-Gohring, Helen Eakle-Herschman, Ethel Berry-Taylor, Walter Limp and Winifred Lorentson.

The Commercial Club, civic organization was replaced by the Civic and Commerce Association.

August Labor, 88 years old, came here in 1909 after working as a cowhand in many states. He bought land here in 1908





Breaking plows used to break up over 1000 acres around Miller in the early days.  
Owned by L. L. Porter and Jim Alloway.



and came to live the next year. He was born in Baden, Germany but worked as a shoemaker in Germany, Russia, Switzerland and Holland. He came to the U. S. when 23 years old. After his wife died in 1943 he came to Miller to live in 1946 and for the last five years of his life made his home at the Dr. Clara Owens home. He died March 29, 1956. "August" remembered how they threshed grain with a flail, how later they used horses for threshing with the teams hitched to the thresher and driven round and round all day long. He never drove a car and thought the farmers should keep on using horses. Failing eyesight caused him to use a white cane when he walked uptown nearly every day.

W. S. Doty of Charlo, Mont. will be remembered as a Sunday School Missionary here and he held meetings in 79 places in Hand County. He began his work in the eighties and drove 50,000 miles doing Sunday School work. Many remember the magic lantern and slides he used at his meetings.

Charles P. Corcoran was postmaster here for 15 years from 1936 to 1951 and when he first came to Miller in 1905 bought the Sexauer Elevator, selling it about 1907. He was then in the real estate business and for several years following that was a stock buyer. He and Ida Clarin were married at Brookings in 1904 and their family is three daughters, Mrs. Neal Wakeman, Whitten, Calif., Mrs. John J. Cross, Winchester, Ky., Mrs. Leonard Nelson of Miller. Mr. Corcoran died September 22, 1953.

The town of Spring Lake was platted June 24, 1884 by the owner Oliver H. Pruner, on his homestead. March 2, 1885 he sold lot 15 and lot 13 in the town of Spring Lake to the Union Church of Spring Lake whose trustees were O. F. Smith, Wm. T. Crecelius and Daniel Cain.

In 1887 Pruner conveyed a tract to the Methodist Episcopal Church, lots 1, 2 and 3 of block 1. George H. Carroll was the surveyor. It is recorded that two buildings were built in the town, one of them a blacksmith shop. The platted streets were named Main, Ash, Maple, Green, West, Carroll and Spring Lake Ave. Boards in the granary at the Carl Winsell farm on Spring Lake are still covered with wallpaper that was in the store or hotel. It is told that Indians used to come to Spring Lake and gather mud hen eggs on the lake.

Spring Lake civic township clerk's record 1886: March 20- The board appointed Michael Mills and Charles Minnick as constables to hold office till the next annual election.



Other names mentioned were: W. Williams, E. H. Williams, Joseph Douthett, George E. Cazaly, W. Hyde, Louis Otto, J. L. Holmes, L. Porter, S. W. Blaine, David Erwin, S. S. Keeler, Archie Burns, Amos Winegar, R. A. Sherman, W. Crecelius, L. A. Williams, Arthur Pugh, P. J. Babcock, Frank Phinney.

March 5, 1895: We note that even then there were seed loans! The board of supervisors agreed to furnish seed to those who need seed by giving a mortgage on the crop and additional security enough to secure the seed.

Howell and Burdette were also platted but never became towns. Janesville was platted on land belonging to Frederick S. Winslow and his wife Maria, March 31, 1884 on the southeast quarter of section 33-115-70. There were four blocks and named Milwaukee Ave., Lake St., Chicago Ave., and Main St. This town did not materialize either.

Dave Nelson who was born on the Nelson farm south of town in 1884 has lived in Hand County his entire life. His brothers, Al, Pete and Louis, were born in Minnesota.

Philip J. Cotton, whose parents Thomas and Catherine Cotton came to the U. S. from England and settled in Prince Edward Isle, was born in Illinois in 1859 and was 10 years old when he came with his parents to Wakonda in 1869, later coming to Hurley County in 1874. He was a freighter from Yankton to Deadwood in the early days. He came with his family to Hand County in 1909 where he lived till the time of his death in 1938.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Hancock came to Hand Co. in 1905 and worked for G. W. Collins. They came from Fayette County, Iowa and worked first near Wessington. Later they moved to their own farm which they bought in the Collins neighborhood and have lived there ever since.

Albert J. Stoudt came to Hand Co. from Remington, Ind. and worked, remaining here till the fall of 1888 when he went to Illinois and married Ida Duncan. They came out to Dakota in the spring of 1888 and lived two years at Clark, S. D., where Stoudt worked in an elevator. In 1893 he filed on a homestead in Bates Twp. and that fall he moved to Spring Lake Twp. He established his home there and remained till 1915 when he moved to Huron. Murray, the man for whom Stoudt worked when he first came here, filed on the homestead that is the original Dave Erwin place. The family of A. J. Stoudt included Mrs. Ernest Frahm, (Ruby, who died in 1945) Earl, who



died in 1954, and Charles, who has made his home in Spring Lake Township for 63 years. Charles highly prizes a stem wind watch that belonged to his great-grandfather and which was at one time used for a clock by his grandparents.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Croll will long be remembered in Hand County. They farmed for many years in Holden Township before running a store in Miller. Then in 1908 they bought their farm in Florence Twp. where they farmed until retirement a few years ago. Mrs. Croll was named Eminent Homemaker of the year in 1933. After they moved to Brookings folks still remember the Crolls as leaders and standard-setters for true Americanism and true Christian living.

The G. W. Collins family came from Storm Lake, Iowa in 1883 to live in Ree Heights. Later they moved to the place that is now the Verne Collins farm southwest of Miller and to what is still known as the "Collins Neighborhood." There were ten children in the family, eight boys and two girls, Will, Dollie (who married Ed Miller), Harrison, John, Clara, Gilbert, Loren, Wallace, Tom and Ote. Clara and Gilbert died in the early day diphtheria epidemic. Will and Harrison married the Burrell sisters, Jemima and Marie. Tom and Ote were druggists and were in the Drug Store in Miller. Tom went to Rapid City and Ote continued in the business here known as Collins and Shaw (Albert Shaw). John, Loren and Wallace were farmers as well as Will and Harrison.

Many names, businesses and activities come to mind as one reviews past history: Dr. Will Redmond, dentist; Judge Frank Fisher, loyal Methodist, interested in local and state activities, who also kept chickens and was often seen carrying his basket of eggs to market; Crabtree's store, Scofield's store, Hewett's Bakery.



## THEY REMEMBERED

Notes sent by Dr. Port McWhorter.

One of the very early doctors, Dr. Pyle, was a homeopath doctor. He had a little rhyme he used to often repeat:

There was a man, he took a pill,  
'Twas small but efficacious,  
He didn't think he would get results at all,  
But he did, my goodness gracious.

Dr. Hill was another early day doctor. Dr. Pyle built the home that stood where the bowling alley now is. Dr. Howell was another early day physician.

At first there was no doctor. A druggist hotel keeper did what he could for the sick. He was named Rowland. The first real educated M.D. was Dr. W. H. Lane.

Early day lawyers that McWhorter remembered were G. O. Hudson who wore a silk hat and a plaid shawl instead of an overcoat. He was a bachelor too.

Terney Wilkins lived in the house that Jack Reck made over into his present home. Stover brought the lumber from Iowa. His wife was a southern woman who had a negro servant called Uncle Ned. He had been a slave in her family and cared for her when she was a child. He lived in a small shanty north of the school house and was finally found frozen to death there.

Hartley who was later married to Miss Shannard, one of the very early school teachers and lived in the house that was later owned by the Saltmarsh's.

Shortly after the completion of the first artesian well in Miller, a movement was started to have a lake or park. Eudell Miller offered to donate the land for the project. It was located east of the school and was naturally a slough in wet weather, lower than the surrounding land. The town accepted the offer on the terms which understood it was offered "that it be developed and maintained as a lake and city park." A lot of work was done and the surplus water turned into it. A lake was formed two or three blocks long and a block wide from two to three feet deep. This furnished boating in the summer and fine skating in the winter for two or three years. Through lack of care it became a mosquito breeding nuisance largely grown up to rushes and cat tails and was abandoned for many years and recovered by the donor of the land. Now it is a favorite residential district.

The first minister in Miller. On a Sunday morning in Oct-



ber 1881 while my father was in Miller to file on land and get a house started a newsman appeared at the hotel who had arrived on the night train. In conversing with him he said that he was a Presbyterian minister. The first preacher to visit the town. On account of the approach of winter everybody was working hammer, saw and trowel, regardless of it being Sunday. The minister was introduced to the others around the hotel and arrangements made to have him preach a sermon. Messengers were sent out around town and tools were laid aside while the people assembled at the hotel. The minister took as his main topic for a sermon that verse in the Bible where Christ justified certain emergency work on the Sabbath such as pulling the ox out of the well. After the sermon a collection was taken for the minister which he in turn turned over to a committee to be used to help establish a Presbyterian Church in Miller. The workers then returned to their work. This was the beginning of the First Presbyterian Church in Miller.

Early day hotel keepers. J. V. Munger in what is now the Miller Hotel built and started in the fall of 1881. Bill Rowland in the next building north. The Thompsons later in the Vanderbilt, now the Magness Hotel.

Mercantile establishments. Loew and Gromann, general store; Childs and Young, dry goods and clothing; S. V. Close, G. O. Galby, where the Penney store is now located; Moffett and Beasom, hardware, Hand County corner; Hazen, dry goods and clothing, just north of First National Bank; Stover, hardware, now the Redmond Hardware Store; J. D. Fitzgerald, drugs; this store was started by a man whose name is forgotten and Fitzgerald was his clerk. The man died and his people were notified of his death and asked what to do with the remains. His folks replied that they did not care what was done with him. So a committee, one of which was the elder McWhorter, decided that as long as his folks did not care what was done with the remains, they should not share in the estate. They appraised the store at \$400 and had Fitzgerald put in a bill for \$400 back wages and turned the store over to him.

Public halls and entertainment. The Metropolitan Hall on the north side of Second Street, later moved to west side of Broadway about where the J. W. Johnson store was.

Rolls Rink, on Second Street east of Broadway, roller skating and opera house.

Banks of early days. Boyd Milam, Hand County Bank, Yetzer and Hill; Citizens Bank, W. H. Waters, corner of Third



Street and Broadway, Morall Bank in Templeman Market building.

The first blacksmiths were J. F. Lawrence, over the west side near the railroad and a little later, Christian Halbig, also west of Broadway.

The first shoemaker was a little short man, almost a dwarf, named Clark, a nice man, located on west side of Broadway. As a small boy Dr. McWhorter remembers watching him nail on shoe soles with wooden pegs, and also his son who was the town's juvenile delinquent and was known as Clarkie.

An interesting event in the town's history was the town clock. A man appeared in town selling clocks. A lot of people around town fell for the deal and contributed money for the clock and the tower was built on the postoffice building to put the clock in. It was located just north of the Penney store. Then the clock salesman was given the money to go to Chicago to buy the clock, but he never came back and neither did the clock. They found out afterward that the same man had fooled several other towns.

Notes from Henry Morrow.

His father, John Morrow, was the mayor of the town during the early days, He, himself, once taught school at the McCool School on Tanner Hill.

The worst fire in the town was when Mrs. Rowland's restaurant on east Main Street burned to the ground.

The Indian scare created much excitement. Some man in Redfield wishing to get some land away from another man, faked the scare. The victim of the scare ran into Redfield shouting, "The Indians are coming!" The news was telegraphed to Miller and everyone gathered into the town and collected all the shooting irons available. Later they learned of the hoax. Once the Indians came to town to celebrate July 4. A dog was accidentally killed so the Indians cooked him hair and all and had a big feast.

A man named Bradly had goats where the auditorium now stands. The goats became a nuisance so one night several men took the goats out and tied them to the railroad bridge. The train came along, cut the goats loose and they fell to the bottom, dead.

Speculation was rife over the new artesian well being dug south of the hotels. "Specs" Baldwin of St. Lawrence guaranteed to drink all the water they discovered. However when the



new well was "capped" and the water spouted 65 feet over the hotel, "Specs" was given the "horse laugh." A hose was turned on him as he went across the street between the two hotels. The force of the water knocked him to his knees and there he was with his Prince Albert coattails flying over his head.

An Italian came through the country with a bear on a chain. Henry Newmire was persuaded to do the bear dance likewise decorated with collar and chain and slightly intoxicated. Mrs. Newmire discovered his antics and led him down the street on the chain.

Several crimes made headlines: William Malkinson killed Jack Garver in 1882 in a saloon on east Main Street. Garver attempted to stop Malkinson from killing some gamblers who had "fleeced" him.

Dan Wolff was killed by Billy Macomber. Macomber was about 21 and his father was a banker in Iowa. He got short of money and wanted Wolff to go to Huron with him to cash a check. Wolff started out with him but it is thought that Macomber killed him near Wessington. When the sheriff came after Macomber, he killed himself.

Dolly Mix was one of the famous race horses owned by Ote Collins. Charles Corcoran drove her in a race at Highmore to win. Charles Flint was one of the judges.

Henry Miller bought a race horse from herds in the west, for his daughter Mrs. Pert Coquillette to ride. The horse was only one second slower than Doc, another fast horse bought by Lew Gass.

Morrow tells of the cleanest fight he ever saw. It happened in the street north of the livery barn when Tom Odle and Charles O. Shaunessy met at noon, without an audience and had their fight. The boys stayed back, walked together, fought a pretty fight, turned and walked away.

There were 300 Indians here in 1884 and in 1886 1100 came for the July 4th celebration.

Doctors that Morrow remembered were Pyle, Lane, Janye, Hill and Hewling.

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Dolly Bushfield, who has served the school board as clerk for thirty-five years before retiring, began school in the old school-house with Grant Smith as first principal. She remembers the strap he kept handy for threatened punishment for misdemeanors. Other members of the board were W. R. Davis, C. L. Wood, George H. Grace, who with Mrs. Grace later





First Grade School Building - 1885

founded the complete High School.

The first school was held in the second story of the Loew and Gromann building, (present Coffee Cup Cafe,) with only a few pupils and two teachers. The second year school was held in the Metropolitan Hall (where the creamery is now located). Then the school was moved to the former J. W. Johnson building in the middle of block 1. After two years they moved to the new school building completed in 1885, with four rooms. The building had two stories with two classes to each room including the seventh and eighth grades and several High School students.

In 1910 the second building was finished after many of the children attended school in churches, halls, etc. There was also a shed-like building put up on the northwest corner of the present school yard and housed the first high school. The first complete high school class graduated from this building.

The old school house was torn down by Henry Biddle and part of it was used in the present home of Huck Bushfield and the old Krueger house.

First graduates from the tenth grade were Mrs. Nellie





Redmond and her sister Libby, in 1889. The first graduates from the twelfth grade were presented their diplomas in 1905.

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The owner of this sod house was not known. The picture was originally owned by J. A. Bushfield.



From J. R. Crowell, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Crowell visited Miller a few years ago, the first time for 45 years. In speaking about the trees at the former Waters home, now known as the Boy's Dorm, he says: "The cedar trees were grown on this same lot and were several years old but were moved to new locations to conform to the landscape plan for the new home, and were moved during the fall, winter and spring in the manner described to keep them alive, after their removal. I do not believe any died from their change of location, but seemed to have justified the great amount of work and expense in connection therewith. Mrs. Waters prized them very highly, as cedar trees, at that time, of that size and age were very rare in that locality.

The living room fireplace was faced with an imported German faience tile which appears to have since been painted over. The paper in the stairway was a German imitation leatherette and the decoration on the parlor ceiling was a special applique textured design, which like the gold ceiling designs in the living room are both in good condition at this time. (Nov. 11, 1953). I have some wonderful photographs of these rooms with their curtains, furniture, etc. given to me by Mrs. Waters when I completed the home.

Most of the woodwork in this house was the finest grade of quarter sawed white oak, which was stained, paste filled in the vacant store rooms in the old Opera House, opposite the Citizens State Bank, both owned by Mr. Waters. There was the preliminary treatment of the woodwork before erection and Russell Bard, employed by Mr. Crowell, helped with this work. The erection of this woodwork required the finest type of skilled carpenters, and Mr. A. W. Dawson, the contractor, had several men who worked on it. I recall among others, Charles Adams, E. J. Colton, Ole Oie, Pete Sande, Sherman Van Pelt and a fine young mechanic named Dan Grinstead, who was lost in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 on his return from his native Norway. The finishing on the woodwork was the highest class and consisted of the stain, filler and four coats of varnish. The last coat was rubbed by hand with pumice stone and oil to a polished finish.

My connection with Miller commenced in January 1907 when I started the finishing and decorating on the new home Mr. Waters gave his daughter Helen, who had married Dr. Port McWhorter, on what was then the north edge of town. During the next two years I finished the new William Waters home,



one for lawyer S. V. Christ, banker George Richardson, G. R. Chase, Mrs. Robert Corrin. I also did various remodeling jobs on tenant properties for Mr. Waters, the Opera House, Christian Science Reading Rooms, Dr. Wallis residence and the first picture show in a building on the east side of Main Street a few doors north of the hotel.

I can remember four automobiles. Glen Waters had a touring car, Dr. Wallis a special make for country trails; the mail carrier had a high wheel chain belt drive car for his route.

A three day carnival in which a barber friend and myself had a hot dog and hamburger stand in front of Jim Redmond's hardware store is remembered as well as a fine July 4th celebration at which banker John Coquillette showed how the local volunteer fire hose and ladder company had won numerous prizes in competition with other cities' teams. I remember too, the sad event of my friend Lars Peterson losing his life in a hunting accident.

Other memories include: The near race riot over an altercation between a partly drunken threshing crew and the negro porter in Nate Johnson's pool hall and barber shop who had a negro friend staying with him, - that required the combined efforts of the County Sheriff Henry Erb and the City Marshal Whitcomb to prevent a lynching.

The large community tar paper tabernacle built to hold the meetings held by the Rev. R. L. Johnson, a Billy Sunday type of evangelist.

The trial and conviction of an aged German farmer accused of poisoning his wife, in which I barely missed having to serve on the jury.

Also the so-called Bank Holiday of 1907, when for some weeks we were unable to withdraw more than one dollar per day of our deposit, regardless of the size of the account.

Among the people I especially remember are ones for whom I worked or met in a business way, etc. were Mr. and Mrs. William Waters and son Glen, their daughter Helen and Dr. McWhorter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Corrin where I boarded; George Jeffries, implement dealer, Ed Dunn, restaurant proprietor, Collins Drug and Fitzgerald Drug stores, Schroeder clothing, Henry Miller cigar store, Snoddy Brothers, blacksmiths and great hunters, William Sunderland and the J. I. Case local agent who furnished a Case threshing engine to supply steam for the local electrical plant for several weeks while out of commission during boiler replacement.



To my mind also comes the memory of Tommy Grant and his mule team. Mr. Myers and his Indian friend, Tommy Fast Walker, a government scout during the Indian wars, and other characters and people.

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Miller's First Water System- as told by Herman DeForest Barnes, a former jeweler here and who came to Miller in 1882.

The problem of having a sufficient supply of good water in the early days, seems to have been quite a serious matter, not only in Miller, but also true of many localities in S. D. After the early eighties Miller was quite fortunate in obtaining artesian wells which have served our needs, however several wells have been sunk since the first well was completed in 1886.

Our first water system was a wood tank mounted on the running gears of an ordinary lumber wagon. The water supply was a shallow well just west of the city and about north of the railroad bridge. A high platform was constructed over the well and a pump installed. The water was then pumped directly into the tank. After the tank had been filled it was hauled to town by a pair of mules and peddled out at the rate of fifteen cents per barrel. Each customer had to furnish his own container. Some people had a standing order for water pretty much as they did from the milk man.

Another early water supply was from a deeper well and wind mill in front of the Anderson livery barn. This was located where the Wilson Welding Service is now located. A large square tank was installed so that livestock could be watered and also served the water question for the livery barn.

Another similar well and windmill was located on Main Street about in front of the Paul Bruke law office. It also had a tank for watering horses and livestock. Both of these wells have long since disappeared, but they served to quench the thirst of many a team after arriving in town over a long dusty road in the hot summer months.

In the summer of 1886 Miller brought in the first artesian well located at the northeast corner of the Merxbauer produce building. The system of putting down artesian wells was considerably different than in later years. They used a large rope cable with a drill attached. Later it was with rods and called a hydraulic system. At one time it looked like the project might be a failure. When water was struck it proved to be a gusher with a pressure of well over 100 pounds. A limited amount of city mains were laid and residences had a hydrant installed in



front of the house. That was considered the last word as far as water service was concerned. The original well played out a long time ago and several wells have been sunk in later years but the pressure of none of them ever equalled the pressure of the first well. After the coming of the artesian well the water wagon and the mules disappeared.

I have sometimes wondered if the expression of 'being on the water wagon,' started from our early water wagon and the mules. The owner of the water wagon and mules was a man by the name of Denny Dulin, no relative of the family of Dulins who lived here in later years.

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The following data given by Grace Butler Barnes. Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Butler and son William arrived in Miller by train on April 12, 1883. They came from Chicago Junction (now Willard) Ohio, with a large contingent of Ohio people to take up land here. The next day after their arrival they went 18 miles south and staked their claim in Ohio Township. They built a sod house to live in. Mother and Bill held down the claim while Dad went to town to work, first on the artesian well located just south of the hotels and also on the railroad. After quitting work on Saturday night he would walk the 18 miles to the claim. On Monday morning he would walk back to town in time to go to work. Mother and Bill had an ox which they would hitch to a stoneboat for means of transportation in the country and to haul water for their use and for which they had to go three miles. After proving up on the claim Dad came to town and started a dray line and house moving service which he operated for many years. He died in 1913 and mother in 1937. There were four children, William, now deceased, Mae Butler Mathews of Miller, both born in Ohio, Everett, born in Miller, and Grace Barnes born in Ohio Township.

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The William Stovers came from Madrid, Iowa in September 1882, remembers Mrs. Nellie Redmond whose stepfather was Mr. Stover. Each emigrant car had to contain some stock so the family came along in the car with the lumber and a cow. Nellie's sister, Libby (later Morrell) was also with the parents. The father ran a saw mill in Iowa and so he brought lumber along with him for his building. Mrs. Stover had baked enough food to bring along and to last her family for three days. They ate in the cars and when they had to stop and water the stock, the brakeman brought coffee to them.



The five cars arrived in Minnesota and the train was not to run on Sunday but the trainmen were persuaded to bring the cars so that they arrived in Miller Monday morning. Nellie remembers how they carried their food into the office of Rowland's livery stable and ate there.

Their claim was fifteen miles north of Miller, section 19-range 114-68. They hitched up and drove to the home of a cousin, Dr. Hewlings (who later married Anna Stebbins) and stayed there until their home was built.

"Hang your chair up," was the by-word when the family finished a meal. And they did just that. There was only one big room and the beds had hinges on them too, so they could be hung up. The horses were kept in a lean-to.

Dr. Hewling was a doctor here in the early pioneer days.

Nellie and Libby worked in town and attended High School. They graduated from the ten grades comprising the High School at that time June 28, 1889, proudly wearing white embroidery gowns, and kid gloves. There were flowers too, for the girls who were really the first graduating class from the Miller school. The diplomas were made from parchment and after sixty-seven years are legible. The diplomas are signed by Prof. Crawford, Superintendent, and the school board, Anna Trythall, Geo. Carroll, C.E. Smith and Linn Roll.

Twenty-two had started in the class but only the two sisters continued to graduate. Nellie recalls that her daughter wore an underskirt made from the graduating dress and finally christening dresses were made for all her children.

Sixty-five years ago last



Nellie McIntire (Redmond)  
Graduation - 10th Grade  
June 28, 1889



June she remembers attending the Fireman's tournament at Pierre. There were plays, too, in which she and other young people took part. Jake Cole was prominent in the entertainments and the parents always allowed the teenagers to go places if Cole was along.

One of the big events was when the Fire Department with its famous Hook and Ladder Company won the World's Championship at Huron. Every woman in town with every broom in town, new or old, met the returning heroes when their train pulled in that day in 1886. "It was a clean sweep," they said. A barbecue followed with the beef roasted at O. A. Smith's store and served free at the Opera House.

At another time the Woman's Club featured a clean-up when "droppings" at the livery barn had to be cleaned up and eliminate the smell.

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By Mary Ramey Campbell.

Although I was born in Spring Hill Township, Hand County, Miller had many fascinations for me as a child. My father loved a circus and I remember rising before daylight and coming to Miller in a spring wagon to see the greatest show on earth. We stopped to pick up some of the neighbors and arrived just in time for the parade. The thrill of a parade is still with me. The elephants and wagons with all their bright color with animals of every kind housed in them; the beautiful horses and colorful riders and of course the calliope; later the circus and lots of popcorn and pink lemonade; they, too, still fascinate me. I had decided then that I'd be a bareback rider on a beautiful white horse. The clowns were so much fun, and for some reason I didn't need to be coaxed to go to bed early the night before going to the circus.

We looked forward to July Fourth celebrations, too. A lovely parade, band and fireworks. We ate the lunch we had brought along on the lawn with our friends the Rev. Doty's, where the B. O. Titus home is now located. I remember Mae Saltmarsh in the band and I so wished that I could play like she could and lead the band.

The plays in the old Opera House were exciting and by this time I had decided to be an actress. I remember one specialty number where the girls were dressed like huge sunflowers. I liked that and made similar outfits at home on the farm.

One time father, sister Laura and I came to town and were snowed in. We stayed at the "Henshaw House" and had our



picture taken and I was so proud between Papa and Sis in a blue serge sailordress. My parents were always proud of my hair that was the length of my dresses and in the picture as much of it showed as possible.

We often came to Miller to see our old friends the Whitcombs, who lived in the first old courthouse. When my mother came to town to see Dr. Lane I sat out in front on the steps and watched the folks go by. His office was a small white building where the back of the First National Bank stands. There was a wooden sidewalk in front and I used to run up and down in front of the office, when I tired of sitting still. There was a white picket fence and flowers across the street where the Dew Drop is located.

The wonderful talent brought here by the Chautauquas was an inspiration and we came to all the programs we could in the huge tent. The year I was in seventh grade the eighth grade graduation exercises were held in this tent and I looked forward to that for the next year. However, the examinations were given in our own schools by the County Superintendent May Rudd and our exercises were held in the Opera House with the graduates sitting on the stage. Grace Redmond sang beautifully at the exercises and we felt so important.

Revival meetings were also held in big tents. Sunday School members came from Ree Heights to Miller to meetings and I remember being a delegate and stayed with the Rev. Coopers of the Presbyterian Church.

Sunday School picnics were held in Leadbetter's grove and Miller Sunday School always came in numbers. The Phinney girls I especially remember and one cute little boy who played on the baseball team from Miller. (He later became my husband!) They came in a hay rack and all of us looked forward to this big event.

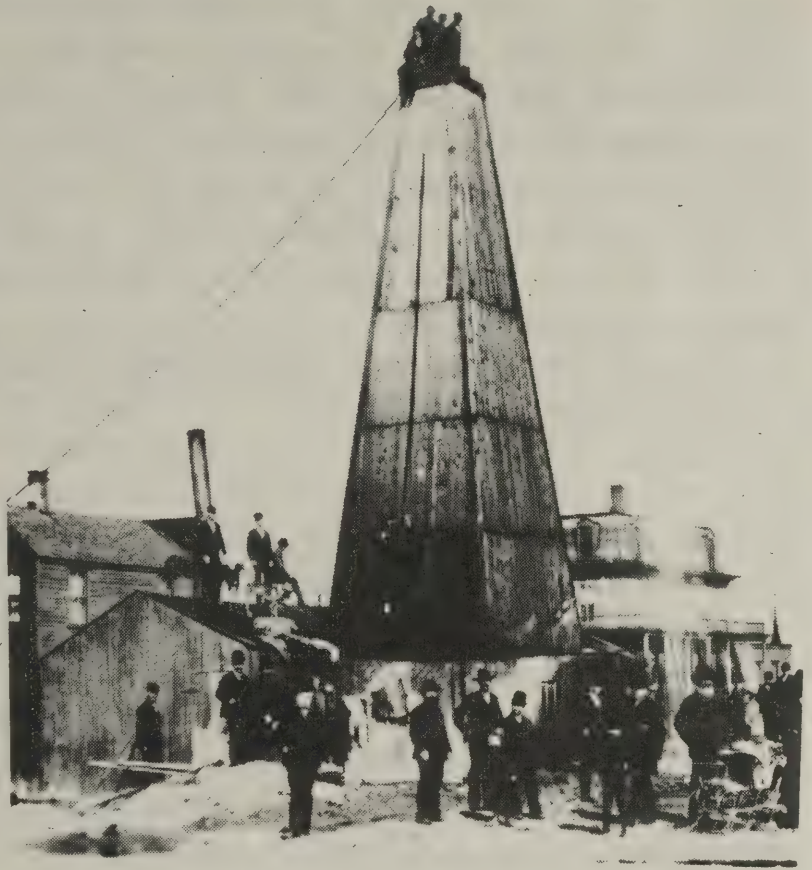
I took music lessons from Linnie Sweetland and often spent week-ends with her. I remember Greeve's store, Johnson's store, and Churchill's store, which we always visited on trips to town. There was also the candy and magazine store of the C. C. Campbell's. I helped Mrs. D. A. Lewis one winter when the children were small. My father always visited H. K. Schroeder at the clothing store and with A. D. Fitzgerald at the drug store. Bill Fitzgerald played the piano and we played duets together that we thought were pretty good.

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A. B. Cahalan remembers that in 1886 the inhabitants of the little village of Miller had water hauled from a number of shal-



low wells, some as far as two and one half miles away. Artesian water was struck at 1148 feet at the first artesian well in this locality. It was a jubilant day and the inhabitants of the little town called a celebration with dances and fireworks. Water pressure was extreme on this initial well and upon testing the well, the steam gauge used thereon showed a confined pressure of 138 lbs. Mains were installed and the pressure from the well was sufficient to send two streams of water over the highest building in town, the Rolls Opera House and the Vanderbilt Hotel, the latter then operated by William Cummings.



The first well, 1148 feet deep - 1886

The fact that Miller had plenty of water and such a wonderful pressure made for fire protection and a Hook and Ladder Company was organized, as well as a Hose Company. Both of these groups contested in friendly spirit. The outgrowth of the local contests was the organization of State Firemen's tournaments and the fire departments of various towns contested. Sturdy young men, several times a week practised and developed their skill in speed, not only on the ground, but harnessed as they were and drawing a hook and ladder wagon, likewise carrying on this hook and ladder wagon, a 28 foot ladder which was removed from the wagon at the end of a 300 yard dash, raised by four firemen whose duty it was to do this job, while the ladder climber ascended the ladder, touched the top rung, completed the timing test. This team became known as the Champion Hook and Ladder team of the world. There were 24 men on the team.



The banner designating this honor is preserved in a glass case at the Fireman's hall in Miller. A picture of the champion team is also preserved. The original Hook and Ladder remains here under the care of the local fire department. The world record time, which they set, was running 300 yards, raising the 28 foot ladder, the climber ascending, touching the top rung in 40 and one-third seconds.

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### Reminiscences.

When Hand County was first settled it was no uncommon occurrence to have fires sweep over the land every spring and fall. Where the grass was long and dry and had been standing for years fire could be easily started and run unchecked for many, many miles. Sometimes sparks from train engines ignited the prairie.

In February of 1882 the Great Fire started near Gettysburg, S.D. A farmer in Pleasant Valley Township was either burning weeds or had set a back fire and it got away from him. This fire joined the big one and swept to Mt. Vernon, S. D., destroying buildings and taking some lives in its wake.

A. H. Abbott was breaking land with oxen in Spring Lake Township one hot day April 3, 1889. He removed his felt boots and left them at the end of the furrow. Before he could make the round the fire had burned his boots and he walked home barefoot. It is reported that his good wife made foot coverings for him from ticking. This fire also destroyed part of Ree Heights. Christmas Eve 1892 another bad fire destroyed much of Ree Heights.

Charles Carroll, remembers how the cattle, trying to escape from the fire ran into the springs at Campbell's Gulch and at the Carroll ranch. For many years all the townships had fire guards.

Mrs. Anna Stebbins Williams, former resident of Pleasant Valley Township, tells how she lay in the furrow from noon till night hanging onto the horses when a bad fire swept over the vicinity. She fainted and Old Rock, one of the horses, licked her face until she came to.

Dad Kintigh, a teacher in Mondamin Township during the winter of 1888, had gone to school the morning of the blizzard on January 12. The day was mild and no one expected a storm. None of the pupils came to school that morning so when the blizzard struck Kintigh started home with a sack on his head for protection. He was marooned in a snowbank where



he had dug his way in for shelter from the storm. After the storm stopped he dug out and a woman saw him walking across the prairie and sent her husband to rescue the stumbling figure. She put groundup frozen turnips on his badly frozen feet and saved them but till his death some fifty years later he had sores on his feet that never healed.

Mrs. Irvin Whitney of Miller remembers this blizzard too. She is a sister of John Heilman Sr. who was five years old at the time. He remembers how his father and Mr. Stebbins were marooned on Tanner Hill with a load of coal. They spent the night at a home on the hill and burned the coal trying to keep warm. Their families knew only that they were on the road somewhere.

The Heilman home was a way station for travelers and many people stopped there.

In the spring of 1889 Heilman remembers how he kept the sheep corralled in the hog house while his parents were helping fight a prairie fire. Burning shingles flew a half mile in the air and set the straw pile afire. The Heilman grove was burned and all the trees killed.

First church services here were held in the schoolhouse and Ellie and May Heilman and Anna Stebbins were among the girls who attended. Rev. Marshall of the Friends Church was one of the first pastors. Protracted meetings were held there, too.

The first literary society was held in the Heilman basement every week with wonderful programs put on by talented people of the community. Anna Stebbins remarked that she spoke a piece every week.

Heilman remembers the school he attended which was begun in 1885. The long recitation benches and how they had to keep putting fuel in the big stove to try and keep warm, those closest "roasted" and those farther away "froze."

When young people went to parties and dances they used teams and wagons with three to four spring seats on them. There was no spooning on these trips.

Anna Stebbins Williams remembers how she picked cow-slips on the prairie and how the prairie was covered with buffalo bones and horns in 1882-1883 and how they were hauled into Miller. They sold cream too, in those days. The milk was allowed to set and then the cream rose. The man who was to buy it measured the inches of cream and paid for it accordingly.



Fresh cow manure was used to make Irish poultices that were a cure for blood poisoning.

Some of the women baked bread for bachelors and made butter, too.

Crecelius' made cheese that was sold by the firkin at the store on Spring Lake.

Many interesting stories have come out of the blizzard of 1896 that brought many hardships to the farmers of Hand County. Trips to town were hard ones with a twenty-five mile trip becoming fifty miles with winding roads around drifts.

A group of men twenty-five miles southwest of town grouped themselves together for the trip one day in mid-winter, when groceries and coal were getting low. This fine day they started out with teams and sleds. They reached town, loaded up ready to return home in the morning but the next morning another blizzard greeted them. One farmer started on ahead, all the rest except two, decided to wait till the storm cleared. These two started out but six miles out met the first man returning and he cautioned them, "You'll never make it!"

However, the two decided they must reach home and families somehow. Many dangerous experiences filled the day while they battled the storm. One man wanted to stop every time they reached a farmhouse but the other stubbornly declared he was going on. At the creek the horses balked. By means of the whip applied to the back team and the shovel waved above the lead team they were frightened into plunging through the creek that was full of slush and on up the other bank.

At last they reached Kaywood Store. They gained the home of one man several miles beyond. But Grandpa was still determined to get home so he shouldered a sack of coal, took the lantern and rode the rest of the way on horseback. He found the family trying to keep the straw burner filled.

During the same winter a farmer had a sow bedded down in a cave. When the snow got too deep he fed her corn through the ventilator and dropped snowballs in for water. She came out next spring looking well-fed.

A bunch of calves were kept in a cave in the same way and came out in good condition.

Grandma had been washing outdoors the day before the storm. She left the chair outside and it was buried many feet under the snow. A wagon road went over the chair all winter. That year there were no hills, no gullies, snow filled every draw to the top.



Wick Cotton, one of the first men to have a car in Hand County, drove his first car, an air cooled Marion, up from Iowa in June 1907. He used to take Dr. S. R. Wallis on long drives to see patients. One time he took Art Cahalan and Fred Johnson way down to Chamberlain to file on land.

Cotton, who lives in California now and was 90 years old July 1954, remembers the column the St. Lawrence paper published in 1909 telling how he drove his car down main street and scared the horses and they should have a law or something! Those contraptions shouldn't be allowed.



One of the first cars in Hand Co. was owned by Wick Cotton and this scene was in 1910 when the group was returning from a picnic at Burdette. Wick is pumping the tire and watching him are J. C. Wilson, Harry Walker, Mrs. Wilson and Ruth Breese.

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Col. and Mrs. Charles Rudd of Denver, Colo. on request have sent this interesting information:

Henry R. Greeves came to Hand Co. about 1883. He filed on a claim in Mondamin Twp. and lived there in a sod shanty about five years. He often told about going with Ed Kintigh down into Buffalo Co. in search of Ed's father, Tom Kintigh, who had wandered down there during the bad blizzard of 1888.



H. R. Greeves went into the grocery business in Miller about 1889 and later added the dry goods section, which was moved over from St. Lawrence. He spent about fifty years in this general store. He served on the city council and was active in the local fire company especially when it was in the "bucket brigade" stage. He was with the Hook and Ladder team when they won the state championship race in Huron. Others who took part were John and Pert Coquillet, Fred Furman, John Keyes, Ed Corrin, Ed McGown, Al Hansen and George Livingston. When the team returned to Miller Billy Waters pinned a \$50 bill to the banner.

Frank Coquillet who also lives in Denver gave the information about the bill on the banner. He also recalled that the Coquillet family was the owner of the bicycle with the big wheel in front that always appeared in the early parades.

Back to Mr. Greeves: He married Martha Ross, whose family pioneered in Glendale Twp. He was a friend of the farmer and a firm believer in S. D. land and that there would be a good crop NEXT YEAR. It took a hardy group of Pioneers to smile and say, "we do not live, we only stay, we are too poor to get away."

An old song we used to hear sung to the tune of Beulah Land ran something like this: Oh Dakota land, sweet Dakota land, As on this burning soil I stand, I gaze away across the plains, and wonder why it never rains-- Till Gabriel blows his trumpet sound and says the rain has passed around.

Gordon W. Rudd and his wife, Mary L. Rudd and family, came to Dakota Territory about 1883-4. They came from Marlette, Mich. by train as far as Redfield where the track ended. From there they traveled by ox team and horses and wagon and settled just south of Orient in Hand Co. There were six children, Will, Water, Henry, Harve, May and Cora.

He was a Civil War veteran, having served in the Union Army for four years. He was a robust and strong man. Because they could not spare the oxen or horses to make the trip to Redfield for supplies, he used to make the trip on foot. He would walk to Redfield one day and return the next, carrying a 50 lb. sack of flour and other supplies on his shoulders.

In the early days of Hand Co. he was a county commissioner and used to walk some 28 miles to Miller to attend each session. He and his wife retired to Miller about 1899 and lived there the rest of their lives. In his fifties he was told he had but six months to live because of a heart ailment. His doctor died and



he went on living till he was 90.

He was born in Ireland of English descent and died here in 1931. His wife was born in London, Ontario and died in 1927, aged 83. Of their children only two are living, Cora of Miller and Harve of Aberdeen.

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Many people will remember William Spain and his family who from about 1908 until Spain's death in 1917, operated the Dew Drop Inn restaurant. He had retired from carrying the mail from Miller to Wessington Springs, a distance of 52 miles each way, twice a week. He bought broncs west of the River and broke them for use on his routes and after 18 years he still had two of the original horses. His son Earl Spain recalls that his father also had the route from Miller to Redfield but had hired help on this route, among whom were his brother Charlie and Dave Babbits. A.W. Colby had the Burdette store and the Spains hauled supplies out in the mail wagon. Boz was the postoffice at Cottonwood Lake and Mrs. George Dornberger's father, Mr. Dean, had the postoffice at Burdette.

Mr. Spain used to tell his children stories of his experiences as mail carrier. Once he got caught in a blizzard and spent two days and nights in a haystack. He had plenty of food with him and ate snow for water. He also recalled a big prairie fire that swept the country and how some of the Shay family living in Bates Twp. were badly burned.

The Spain family came from near Portage, Wisc., in 1886 and settled in Spring Lake Twp. among the early settlers; there were four brothers and one sister, William, Abe, Joe, Harry and Eliza. William Spains family included Charles, Della, Earl, Glen, Tessa, Eleatha and Fred.

Earl Spain remembers when the George Corrin family lived in the old Opera House and when Mrs. Corrin rushed out into the adjoining store with her baby Eliza choking in her arms and asked for a doctor to come. He also recalls when the militia was stationed in the old Opera House building. The officers were Captain John Coquilllette, Lts. Dr. Will Redmond, and Pat Dunn; William Spain, First Sgt.

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W. E. Hurd of Rockham tells these interesting things about the pioneer days:

Our family originally came from Wisconsin, leaving there for Iowa in the spring of 1882 where we lived one year. April 1, 1883 with another family named Mullenix and their three



children, and our three, we came to Dakota Territory. We had covered wagons, but my father had a yoke of oxen and the Mullenix's had a pair of balky horses. We arrived in the grove at St. Lawrence on April 23 and there met a fellow who was locating settlers. He took us out to Carlton Twp., unorganized at that time. Dad filed preemption on the N.W. quarter of sec. 23-115-67. Mullenix filed on the quarter just across the road north of us. We built sod houses and barns where we lived for the first five years. It was in the winter of 1883 when Dad went to Redfield just before Christmas and stayed over night, starting home the next afternoon. It had been 40 below that morning but by dark he was close enough to home so we could hear the wagon wheels squeal in the snow. Brother Lee and I would run out every little while and listen and look for him. Finally we went to sleep and the next day Dad was home.

The township was organized no doubt, in the summer of 1884. There was no school house so we attended classes in a sod building originally meant for a blacksmith shop. For seats we had benches and boards. The place was also used for literary purposes and community activities. There were no churches or any religious services near so prayer meetings were held in the homes.

Four school houses were built in the summer of 1885 and about the same time the Methodist church sent out a minister and Burdette and Carlton communities had services in the new school houses that were used for all community affairs.

We were still living in the old sod house at the time of the greatest blizzard, January 12, 1888. Early in the morning it was real warm with a light southeast breeze. Dad and George had finished and we were all in the house at breakfast when the storm struck with a big puff, and it kept it up till the next night. There was a small attic in the old house and Dad went up to try to stop the snow from drifting in. While he was there brother George decided to go to the Mullenix place for some papers he wanted to read but he became lost in a minute and thought he was southeast of home. After a while he ran onto some boards and on examination found he was over a well where we got our water. He then found a path leading up the hill toward the Mullenix house. By keeping close to the ground he finally ran into their house. They were afraid to have him stay there so they bundled him up and as he stepped outside he waited a moment and saw the outline of our house. He made a run for it and was safely home.



Our teacher lived across the section northwest from the school house. Several of the scholars were with her, driving a pair of work mules and were near the school when the storm struck. They got the mules in the barn and themselves in the building where they stayed till morning.

The Milwaukee railroad made a survey from Hitchcock across to Onida in the fall of 1910. They bought the land and paid for it but nothing was ever done with it, so it went back to the original owners. The survey ran a little north of west through the center of Carlton Township.

Howell in the early days was quite a good sized place. It was expected that the Milwaukee would be built on south from Orient but when it stopped at Orient the town of Howell soon played out. At one time they had a \$50,000 hotel, a general store, drugstore, blacksmith shop, a lawyer's office and a good sized school. There was a doctor there whose name was Howell but I do not think the place was named for him.

The hotel was later torn down and taken to St. Lawrence and made into residences. At one time there was a mail route from Miller to Howell three times a week. Another went from Howell east past the Hand postoffice and on over to a post-office in Wheaton Township, named Helmick, and return three times a week.

Burdette was on another route from Redfield to St. Lawrence. In about 1885 the Burdette and Carlton churches were organized. Later as ministers were hard to find, Burdette was discontinued and Carlton became a Community church. Sunbeam and Wheaton churches were organized in the early 1900's and both used the same minister. The Catholic Church of Burdette was organized about the same time.

The first child born in Carlton was a boy to Mr. and Mrs. George Clark. He lived only about three years and his was the first death there. When the Clarks moved away they put a little board fence around their child's grave but it rotted away and today there is nothing to show where it was.

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Memories from Mrs. Lew Tyler (Ione Lovell) of Salem, S.D.

In regard to the old mill, it was not built by my dad, Nels Lovell, but I do recall my dad saying it was built by a man by the name of Lovell. He lived at St. Lawrence and was a miller and ran a mill there. He sold the Miller mill to Henry Miller, father of all the Miller boys.

George Myers did have one of the first barber shops.



My dad, Nelson G. Lovell, filed on government land twelve miles south of Miller in Logan Township in 1883, a homestead and tree claim. The Lovells lived on this homestead with their family of seven children through the early pioneer days of blizzards, prairie fires, etc. The winter of the big '88 blizzard when many lost their lives, will never be forgotten.

Our old school building was called Sunny Side School and I wonder if it is standing at this date. Dan Ayers was our teacher and boarded with us. He had gone to school just before the blizzard struck and he and the Hardwick children stayed in the school house all night. Dad just got the team out to take us children to school when he said, "I'll put the horses back in the barn, we never can make it, the storm is so dense." So we were all safe at home.

Our neighbor on the south, Alex Thompson, was caught in the blizzard and frozen to death.

Our neighbors there at the ranch were the Thompsons, the McGowans, the Fausts, Trushes, Scotts, Grays, Williams', Mannings and Hardwicks. There were twenty-three children in school. We had literary society, spelling schools etc. The Christmas tree and programs were held in the Center school house and we kids all had to speak our pieces. The Center school was farther north than Sunnyside. They had debate teams and it was fun for us kids to hear our parents debate. We would all pile into the bob sled and away we'd go!

Emma Myers made her home with Mr. and Mrs. Emmons in town.

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The log house south of Vayland has an interesting bit of history. U.G. Harris of Wessington reported that the house was built in 1882 (the historical society placed an 1881 on the front of it). His uncle John McMurtry came to S.D. from Indiana that year and hauled logs from a gulch in the Wessington Hills to the site.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Proctor and family were the first to live



in the one room house. Planks were put up above when there was company or the family was too large. Mr. Proctor's in-laws and two other young men also lived in the house.

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John Bushfield came from Cass County, Iowa with other homesteaders through southern Minnesota, which was the main line from Iowa to Dakota Territory. So many people came that they almost covered the tops of the train cars, hanging on to be able to ride. This was in March 1883 and the Bushfield family came later. It took nearly a week to come here from south of Des Moines, Iowa. Miller was called siding 3 1/2, located between Rex (St. Lawrence) siding 3 and Ree Heights, siding 4.

We thank Dollie Bushfield for the interesting stories about her father John Bushfield.

There was a time when St. Lawrence said Miller had no water, discouraging settlers from coming here. One night the men dug a hole 10 feet across and 20 feet deep and in the day time it was full of water. The hole was where the rear part of the auditorium now stands. It really kept the men busy at night hauling water from Turtle Creek in shifts to keep the hole full.

There was no fire department so a team hitched to a spring wagon was kept tied to a hitching post on Main Street. On the occasion of a fire a bunch of fire fighters piled into the wagon, took the road on the north side of the railroad track and were off to fight the fire. The fellow became a bit excited as the driver whipped the horses into a dead run, and yelling wildly tossed the lines over the horses backs. Then a man would climb over the dashboard and proceed along the wagon tongue, grab the lines and stop the runaway horses.

Nate and Maggie Johnson lived on a claim three miles north of town. At the time of the false Indian scare they came driving furiously into town with their horse and spring wagon, loaded with whatever they could gather up, seeking shelter in the town from the savage Indians.

Bushfield was on the committee for the first July 4th celebration. The committee went to Ft. Thompson and invited the Indians to a barbecue just west of town near the old mill. As they approached the Fort the Indians came to meet them and presented identification. It took Bushfield and A.D. Hill two days to go on this journey. They expected only a few Indians but 800 came.

J.A. Bushfield purchased the Hand County Press in 1883 and



in 1894 changed the name to Pioneer Press. His partner for a year and a half after purchase of the paper was W.H. Kephart. Bushfield changed the name of the paper to the Miller Press in 1906. The Bushfield family helped with the work at the newspaper office.

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The old steam threshing outfit. Picture courtesy Mrs. Annie Johnson.

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Thank you, Marian Burke, for this answer to our request for information concerning the Burke family.

Dad's father, Alexander Burke was Justice of Peace about 1884 and from then on until possibly 1898. He lived in the Ree Hills, in Midland Township. Jake Cole went out from Miller to try a case and went through the motions of seeming to hunt for something in his pockets after arriving there. The other lawyers on the case winked at each other and asked him why he didn't bring his books out. He answered that they were rather heavy books and he had walked all the way out there - a distance of about 10 miles. As dad remembers it, the other attorneys were B.F. Payne and G.A. Gray, both practicing in Miller at that time.

Dad taught school in Miller from about 1904 to 1907 - the 5th and 6th grades, for one term and the 7th and 8th grades for 2 terms. Later on he was on the City Council for a number of years and more lately, of course, he was mayor for 6 years.

He came to Miller in May 1883 with his family - he was about 9 years old at that time. He remembers that they stayed the first night at the home of A.L. McWhorter, father of Dr. Port McWhorter. He remembers Doctor, who was a little fel-



low then, having a red wagon, which my father had a great yen to play with. But Dr. Port didn't like that idea and wouldn't let him touch it.

Dad remembers hearing Chief White Ghost deliver his oration at the Fourth of July celebration in Miller about 1885 - a speech which he closed with the phrase "I have said." The rest of his speech apparently did not impress dad, but the closing phrase still remains in his memory.

Now about Mother. She went to school in Miller from 1889 to 1893 when she was about 12 years old - she attended school 4 years or through the 9th grade (there were 10 grades at the time in the Miller School). She then taught school for 9 years before she was married. During the time she went to school in Miller she stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stover, who ran a store where Pert Redmond now has his hardware store. Mrs. Stover was the mother of Nellie Redmond.

In school, among her classmates or at least schoolmates were among others, Dr. McWhorter, Clara Burke, Herman Barnes, Horace Morrow, Ote Collins and Gertie Furman (later Mrs. Collins), Nellie Potter, the Andrews girls (one of whom is now Mrs. Croll at Brookings and one Mrs. Yetter).

Mother's maiden name was Mary Kolda and her people settled up in the Polo region. At one time they had the post office at her family home there and it was called Kolda. It was located just a fraction of a mile south of what is now the home of Verlin Kolda. He is a great grandson of the original Kolda, who had the post office there.

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Stuart Rudd has this apt title to the information he gave us for this book: "Our Miller- 2000 souls call it home."

The first siding at Miller was built about 1880 some three years before our folks happened along from Michigan's log woods.

They unloaded their emigrant car at Redfield and walked the thirty miles to Grandpa's claim in north Hand County in 1883. The family were pretty well grown up, except the girls who were old enough to remember the trip. The other side of the family arrived via emigrant car to Miller in '84. They all took claims in Campbell Township and Grandpa and the school ma'm, Maggie Dunn, who lost her life in the blizzard of '88 were buried out there on the claim.

Even then Miller was a progressive and lively town, even when the milk cows bedded down on the main street at night. If the old timers could take a peek at our present town any



Saturday night they just couldn't believe it!

My mother, the youngest of the Dunn girls, taught school the year round, three months to a school. She said the coyotes played like puppies beside the road as she walked from the little school house to the farm house where she boarded.

Nearly every quarter section had a homesteader on it part of the year.

George Scott had a livery stable over on the west side and knew everyone who lived in Hand County. Ed Dunn owned the Miller Hotel and he and his wife, Mary Grant, had a restaurant there too. Dan Walsh was sheriff, Mart Flanagan town marshal. Dr. Lane and Dr. Sweetland had the health of the town to look after.

Personally my memory doesn't go back farther than Dr. Wilson, present dentist who has served more than a half century. The lawyers were Judge Carroll and his sons, later John Pusey and Harlan Bushfield. John Bushfield was editor of the Hand County Press. Several stores and store keepers were Pert Coquillette, A.H. Churchill, H.R. Greeves, J.W. Johnson.

Harve Snoddy had a blacksmith shop a block east of the present Magness Hotel. Dick Spain drove the mail, also Wayne Clay and his dad. Woody Wilson had one of the first auto garages and our first and only wrecking business. Dan Healy and Tommy Stratton edited the Gazette at an early date. (Stratton had the Miller Sun as we remember it).

My grandfather retired here about the turn of the century-built two houses, planted half a block of Irish Cobblers, a few fruit trees, and generally grew up with the town.

I saw the light of Dakota's sun in the Spicer house and Grandma Dunn gave me my first bath, it made me tough to take grasshoppers, blizzards and shock threshing for the next half century.

Tommy Grant was a little dried up Irishman, he drove a team of midget mules all over the country selling garden produce and he shipped carload after carload of bones which he found bleaching on our prairies.

Dunn started the first rabbit buying depot, he also had the first buttermaking establishment, followed by Rasmus Anderson with his creamery and later the locker plant.

Artie Cahalan started in the First National Bank as a messenger boy and janitor, and ended as it's president, helping the bank to float its way up through the depression of the 30's. It merged with the banks at Ree Heights and St. Lawrence.



bringing Jarmuth, Steckman and Gardner with it.

Many old buildings up and down main street have been rebuilt and many new businesses added since the old days. Now we have about a baker's dozen of filling stations, five or six garages, two or three machine shops, a tire shop and retail on north side; some seven restaurants and cafes, two lockers, our own heat and lighting plant, seven hardware appliance stores and two drug stores, three big elevators, several bulk stations, three machine companies, trailer courts, motels and cabins.

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Grandstand at Miller Fair Grounds, east of town.

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Mrs. Hugh Whitlow can proudly display an old sewing machine that her mother bought soon after the big prairie fire swept across their land in the early days. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Crecelius and they lived in Spring Lake Township.

"Jake" and his brother Will came here from near Marshalltown, Iowa in 1882 and filed on land in Spring Lake Twp. They left and returned March 6, 1883 to stay. The two bachelor brothers remembered how they came out from Miller to build a shack and a shelter for their horses, were blizzarded in for three days and couldn't get away. They settled on different quarter sections.

Later Mrs. Will Crecelius edited a newspaper called the Enterprise using a hand press and doing the work at her hus-



band's store where they lived on the west side of Spring Lake. One time she ran out of paper for printing her paper so she used wrapping paper. A copy of this paper is preserved by the State Historical Society.

Mrs. Whitlow's mother was Laura Hudson and they lived south of Danforth store in Jerauld County. Laura remembered how the fire swept across their homestead and even though they had piled their goods out on the plowing the fire burned everything up. She often told how the wind during the fire was so strong that no one could stand up.

Laura later owned the southwest quarter of Section 2 and traded with Will Crecelius and got some land in Spring Lake Township. She always said she liked the huge flat rock that was her doorstep.

Other relatives, the Aaron Kolters, lived on the northeast quarter of Section 2 where an old well now remains filled to the brim, the rock wall that Jake and Kolter built, still holding.

There was no need of marriage licenses in those days.

Twisted hay and cow chips were used for fuel as well as mustard. Grass was as high as the wagon box. The Crecelius' homesteaded on Spring Lake because they figured the well would never go dry, but it did!

Florence Whitlow was born here and lived on the same farm all her life.

The Williams Brothers homesteaded four quarters in Spring Lake Township. They were the quartet who sang and put on minstrel shows.

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Mrs. Eva Fritts, one of the Sedam daughters, tells us about her family in the following data:

Robert T. Sedam took up the first claim in the Township of St. Lawrence arriving at what was known as Siding Number 3, in 1880. The claim was a mile south of the present town of St. Lawrence and in that first year he built a house, returning to Ogle County, Illinois, staying there with his family until the spring of 1881. He returned to Dakota Territory with his two older sons, Robert and John, traveling in an "Immigrant car", followed in a few weeks by Mrs. Sedam, with six other children, Ned, or E.E., Fred of Miller, Howard now living in Huron, Meda, living in California, Jennie, and Fanny, now living in Rapid City.

The house, a story and half building, with each floor a large room, with curtain partitions, was always large enough



for friends and neighbor children to visit. Fuel was a serious problem, coal too expensive and the prairies were treeless, so that cow and buffalo chips, twisted hay, straw and what few pieces of wood that could be found were used.

In the immediate vicinity were neighbors from their same community back in Illinois, so that there were many parties and gatherings. A Sunday School was organized and Mr. Sedam was the first Superintendent with the meetings being held in the larger John M. King home which still stands east of St. Lawrence. Mrs. Sedam could play the violin a little, which furnished the music and helped the children to learn the hymns.

The farm and family survived the prairie fires, Indian scares, drouth years, grasshoppers and crop failures and raised not only the children born in Illinois, but Ralph, now of California, James and Eva of Miller who were born on the homestead.

Mr. Sedam, who when six weeks old moved with his family from his birth place in Pennsylvania to Illinois was always active in worthwhile local activities, lodge, school and government. He was the first Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star and served in all offices in the local lodges of Royal Arch Masons and the A.O.U.W. and also held several state offices in both lodges. He served as a Representative of his district in the House of Representatives, member of the school board, and was State Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Mr. and Mrs. Sedam lived to celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary in St. Lawrence, where they had moved in 1899. Mr. Sedam died in Sept. 1929, Mrs. Sedam in March 1930. They left a heritage of love and understanding to their children and friends and a record of service to their community and state that is synonymous with the true pioneer.

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A chat with Mrs. Eliza Leckner reveals these interesting items about the Corrin family:

Robert Corrin was one of the early settlers of Miller. He was born in Douglas, Isle of Man (an island 75 miles from Liverpool, England) March 30, 1858, the son of Robert Corrin and Eliza Bridson. In 1886 he married Jane Giel and they came to the U.S. and Miller the same year. Two years later his wife died and the winter of 1888 he returned to the Isle of Man, accompanied by his Uncle Edward Corrin who farmed six miles south of Miller. The Corrin school eight miles south of town on Highway 45 is named after Uncle Edward Corrin.



They returned to Miller in the spring of 1889 accompanied by Robert's cousin Edward Corrin and a niece Eliza Quayle (who in later years married William Hardwick and they farmed south of town, moving to Michigan about 1896). (Mrs. Hardwick is presently living in Long Beach, Calif. with her daughter Thora).

Robert brought back a marker from the Isle of Man for his wife's grave. At the same time he brought a Manx cat back with him. They are tailless cats and there are still a few left in Hand Co., all descendants of this cat.

In those early days the Indians would come to Miller and the townspeople were afraid of them. In the evenings they would walk out to the Indian camp about a mile north of town and sit around so the Indians would know they were friendly.

One July 4th the people invited the Indians to come to the celebration and 500 came. They had expected only a few and it was the duty of the Miller people to feed them so several steers were butchered. The Indians stayed a week.

Robert bought a tobacco pouch from the early day Indians, a beautiful beaded bag with shoulder strap that is kept by the Corrin family as a precious heirloom.

Corrin was also janitor of Miller's first school. Christmas of 1893 he had a Christmas tree with a gift for each child, so on Valentine's day 1894 the pupils and teacher presented him a plush album containing many pictures of the pupils. It was highly prized by the janitor and is also kept in the Corrin family.

The inscription in the album reads: "from the pupils and teacher of the Intermediate and Primary rooms of Miller Public School, February 14, 1894.

A newsnote about the gift reads: "Robert Corrin, janitor of the city schools was the recipient of a Valentine, a little out of order. After the holiday vacation Robert won the hearts of the little ones by a Christmas tree filled with presents for them. So yesterday they got even with him by presenting him a fine plush album containing a number of their pictures. The teachers were Misses Biddle and Dexheimer."

December 5, 1896 he was married to Gretje Ufen who had come to the U.S. from East Friesland, Germany. They were married at the home of his Uncle and Aunt, Edward Corrin south of town. Edward Corrin, a cousin, was best man. Teachers and pupils of the Miller school attended. Eliza Corrin Leckner, their daughter, still has the orange blossoms that



were on her mother's wedding veil. They lived for several years in living quarters on the first floor of the old Opera House. The building was owned by W.H. Waters, pioneer banker, and Corrin was janitor and caretaker of the building.

In the early days Robert worked for the town, he constructed the first water system and planted the first trees, he was water commissioner for several years, janitor of the old court house and first janitor of the present courthouse, janitor of the city auditorium. He died June 19, 1938 and his wife died Jan. 9, 1939. Their three children, Eliza Leckner and Harry of Miller, George of Rapid City, survive.

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In 1902 Robert and George Quayle, nephews of Robert Corrin and brothers of Eliza Quayle Hardwick came to the U.S. and Miller from Douglas, Isle of Man. Robert worked for the railroad out of St. Lawrence and several years later he moved to Michigan. In later years he worked for the railroad out of Chicago. He is now retired and living in Chicago.

George Quayle was employed on several farms in Hand Co. He learned the printer trade working for J. H. Bushfield and also worked at the printer trade in Pierre. He was a Methodist minister in several S.D. towns going to Arizona and then to California. He died in California in December 1945.

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Uncle Edward Corrin was another pioneer of Miller. He was born in Douglas, Isle of Man, Jan. 29, 1824, a beautiful island surrounded by Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. He was anxious to see more of the world and immigrated to America when a young man. He lived in New York state and was married to Lydia Sturgis in 1850. They moved to Durant, Iowa where he farmed and engaged in the blacksmith trade, learned in the homeland. He and his wife were passengers on the first train west to Davenport, Iowa.

When 40 years old he enlisted in the Union army and fought through the Civil War. He was with Sherman on his famous march to the sea. After the war he returned to Iowa and he and his wife and family came to Miller in 1880 and settled on the farm six miles south of town. His wife died in 1897. He made two trips back to his native land. He lived to be 101 years old. (They are both buried in the G.A.R. cemetery here. They had a family of seven children and one daughter, Sarah, is now 90 years old living at Hurley, S.D. (Sarah had married Alex Thompson who was frozen to death in the bliz-



ard of 1888 in Logan Township).

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Edward Corrin who lives at the McMahon Hotel in Miller is a nephew of Uncle Edward Corrin and a cousin of Robert Corrin. He came here in the spring of 1889. He was born at Onchon Village, Isle of Man, December 10, 1869 and was 86 years old last December. He worked on several farms in Hand County also for Mr. Torrey who had a livery barn here in the early days and also on Miller's water system. He was janitor of First National Bank for many years.

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James M. Magness was born in Ute, Iowa June 27, 1890 in a family of twelve children. While going to school he helped his father in the meat market and learned something about his profession as an auctioneer from him. At the age of 16 he came to St. Lawrence and made his home with his brother Ben and worked for him while going to high school. He sold his first sale at the age of 18, a livestock at Wessington and from then on sold farm sales with his brother Ben. He learned the Pure-bred Livestock Auction business under Fred Reppart of Decatur, Indiana, assisting at the International American Royal and some of the big breeders of America. He has always enjoyed a good auction business.

"Jim" has long been a booster for S.D. and the town where he was living, has been interested and tried his best to work for the betterment of livestock. He served in the State Legislature as Senator in 1933. He was awarded a trophy by the Livestock Improvement Association for his efforts in promoting 4-H work in Hand Co. and S.D. and was chosen Eminent Farmer at S.D. State College in promotion of 4-H, F.F.A. and for effort in promoting better livestock in S.D. In 1939 he and Jennings Brothers started the Miller Livestock Auction Co. and he moved to Miller in 1943 where he has continued his sale work since.

In 1913 he married Mabel E. Altenow and they raised an adopted daughter Vivian Hartman, and now have two grandchildren.

For a hobby "Jim" breeds and races standard bred harness horses. He is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Kiwanis, and other civic organizations.

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Mr. and Mrs. F.A. Altenow are the parents of Mrs. James Magness. Fred Altenow was born in Germany in 1861 and



came to Hutchinson, Minn. when he was nine years old, crossing the Atlantic in a sail boat, a journey that took nine weeks. He came to S.D. to find on a claim six miles south of Siding No. 3 when he was 21 years old. Later he had a blacksmith and wagon shop.

Through the early years of hardship he helped with everything to better his community. There was drouth and hail, severe winters and every adversity to try the pioneer spirit. One year his business was mostly making bows for the tops of covered wagons so the settlers who gave up could take their families back to eastern states. He went through Indian scares, one of which he often recalled. There was a report that Sitting Bull was on the warpath and headed that way so he and another unmarried man volunteered to guard and warn the people if the Indians came. About daylight- no Indians came- he found the other fellow had imbibed too freely and was sound asleep. He woke him and told him the Indians were coming, but all he said was "Let them come!" Altenow went to work, was pounding out plow lays about eight o'clock. He looked at the window and there were a couple of big Indian bucks all dressed in war paint and feathers. Of course he thought his time had come but they grinned and pointed to the sparks flying from the anvil, so that ended the scare.

In 1895 he bought out a hardware store and sold his blacksmith shop and from then on kept enlarging his stock of general merchandise and machinery until he had one of the largest stores of its kind in Hand County. He sold out in 1912 and bought property in California which he put into oranges but still maintained the farm northeast of St. Lawrence. For a number of years he was engaged in the real estate business. In 1889 he married Alta M. Preston and they had two daughters, Mabel and Frances who died in infancy. Mrs. Altenow died in 1919 and after buying a store at Mt. Vernon, Altenow married Myrtle Boomwell. He helped organize the First State Bank of St. Lawrence and was vice president all during its existence, he also served a term in the State Legislature.

All through his life he was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and found much happiness in all of his life work there.

Mrs. F. A. Altenow was born in Meadville, Pa. in 1860 and came with her parents to a farm near Orient in 1886 and from there to St. Lawrence where she made her home with Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Adams, her sister. She did dressmaking. Dr.



Adams had first practiced dentistry in Miller before moving to St. Lawrence.

She married Altenow in 1889 and went through all the experiences of a Pioneer Daughter of S. D., always ready to do her part in helping others in the community and church, a good wife and mother. In later years she and her husband lived in California but she died during the 1919 flu epidemic in St. Lawrence.

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We gathered the following from Cliff Walsh who attended school when we "kids" did.

Cliff remembers Albert Churchill and his many fine qualities which endeared him to the community. There was his habit of giving Christmas candy to the strongest and most nimble of foot. It was Mr. Churchill's custom to have manufactured a big stick of striped, peppermint candy, nearly 20 pounds in weight. This candy lay in the front window of the store where youthful admirers could look at it for a couple of weeks before Christmas. Then on a chosen afternoon, probably the Saturday before Christmas, the stick was hammered into small pieces and placed in a barrel. The barrel was placed on the sidewalk and all the available kids lined up a half block distant and at a given signal they all broke for the barrel. It was a scramble and getting the candy was only half the battle. You still had to protect your loot from the slower of foot; it usually developed into quite a shindig before equal distribution was accomplished.

Cliff recalls how the kids used to hang around the candy case in Churchill's store in an effort to get the most for a nickel from one of the more generous clerks, Ora Zimmerman or Francis Weir. Cliff and Art Cummings tried hard to get the attention of their favorite, but a new clerk waited on them. Art doubting the clerk's generosity, finally put his nickel on the case and ordered some of Woodward's butterscotch. The clerk meticulously counted out the pieces in a fair sized paper bag and they just about covered the bottom. Art accepted it gracefully, looked the clerk in the eye, then blew the sack full to capacity, held it out and remarked, "Gee, look at all the candy I got for a nickel!" Both boys barely made the side door ahead of the clerk's boot.

A copy of an anniversary issue of the St. Lawrence Hand County News came into Cliff's possession and he noted that the twelve pages were full of county news, ads, etc. There



was a five man village council picture including a newly arrived banker, L.T. Jarmuth. The paper was having a contest to choose Hand County's citizen of the day and the editor, after recounting the accomplishments of his choice, went on to say; "Unless Hand County's outstanding citizen is a character by the name of Horse Thief Haines who operated a still down in Rosehill Township."

Later friends verified the fact to Cliff that there really had been a Horse Thief Haines who evidently took pride in his name and accomplishments. He introduced himself to people as "Horse Thief Haines, the bootlegger." His base of operations was south of Wessington where he had his business establishment in a series of caves in the Hills. Here he operated his still and stored his loot. Bill Hultman reported that one time his father who lived near there, lost about eight head of cows and they were found in the cave.

The old Todd case was an early day murder mystery in Hand County. Todd was a homesteader who lived alone after becoming a widower. His son had lived with him but when he grew up he went away. At times the neighbors would miss the old man and one day they found him dead and concealed in a cave with a bullet hole through the top of his head. His team and wagon and a large sum of money which he was known to have carried were all missing. It became an unsolved mystery until some years later the report has it that the son on his deathbed confessed to having killed his father and to avoid suspicion had loaded the wagon with rocks and had driven toward Pierre and finally ran wagon and team into the river where they were drowned.

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Dr. E.H. Wilson and Herman Barnes were two young lads who went to the Normal School at St. Lawrence. W.E. Burke also attended and some of the other pupils were Louie Hemmingson from south of Miller, Nellie and Fannie Scott, (Mrs. Scott was Matron of the Dormitory), two Smith boys, Harry and Lou Barker, Frank Jones, Lou Doland and Susie Childs. The Dolands and Childs owned a big store in St. Lawrence.

James Henry Snoddy started the Normal School in St. Lawrence in 1894 and there were about 25 pupils remembers Dr. Wilson.

Also attending the school was Sadie Kentner and her sister Mattie from St. Lawrence. Dr. Wilson and Sadie's acquaintance ended in romance and they were married, moving to Mil-



ler where they have lived for many years.

O.W. Coursey was a teacher in the Normal School and famous as a fine penman. He and Dr. Wilson also took Advanced Algebra in a class together at the school.

Dr. Wilson has vivid memories of the blizzard of 1888 on the homestead on Lake Louise. "That was the HE blizzard of them all," reports the doctor. A chap froze to death near the Wilson home. His name was Holtz and he lived about four miles north of Wilsons. His wife was ill and he started on horseback that balmy morning to go to Dr. Smith's. He was on his way back when the storm struck and he got lost. They found him the next morning frozen in the position he had fallen off his horse. The Wilsons saw the horse standing and found the man lying on the ground. The temperature was -40.

The night before the blizzard it had snowed with the wind in the southeast. Dr. Wilson and a lad who stayed at their home to help with chores since the elderly Wilson could not help with this work, went out the next morning and spent most of the time before breakfast scooping away the snow so they could chore. They went in to eat and planned to finish the feeding and go to school but the storm struck and they were lucky to get the stock cared for. The high wind that came up blew the snow off of their tracks of the night before and they were able to get to the house.

The teacher who stayed at Jamieson's and the two Jamieson children, (the girl later married Seth Wyland,) got to school before the storm came but there was little coal there. Jamieson had hauled out a load for the school but had not had a chance to deliver it. The teacher and the two children remained at the school house and broke up furniture for fuel. The next morning they started to walk home but the teacher gave up, laid down in the snow and the children had a hard time getting her up and back to the school house.

The dinner bell at Wilsons could never be heard in the barn but during the storm the boys could hear it ringing clearly when the parents rang it to hasten them back to the house.

One trip to the barn the old bull dashed outside and the boys couldn't get him back in. The next morning they found him a half mile away in a draw but he was never any good after that. All summer he would lie on the sunny side of a hill and roast himself.

The snow during the storm drifted up the boys' sleeves and it was as fine as flour.



A big prairie fire came within four miles of the Wilson homestead. Dr. Wilson said "it was a beastly thing." A man named Turner was burned to death in that fire. Dad Wilson and the boys rode out on horseback to see where the fire was and it was coming so fast it was all they could do to get back safely to their homestead. The fire was going as fast as a horse could run.

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James E. Bard and family came here from Bridgewater in 1906 and Bard's had a land office at one time with McCullen and Cree and also at one time sole owner. Henry, a son, was bookkeeper at the Hand County State Bank until 1908 when he went to Harrold, S.D. and ran a bank there until 1921. That year Henry and brother Russell bought the controlling interest in the Hand County Bank here that was organized by E. F. Waite in 1901. This bank although begun six months later than the First State Bank, (now First National) has had the longest continuous existence of any bank in Hand County.

Bess Bard Shaw, the daughter, was a former clerk in A. H. Churchill's general merchandise store. She remembers the early day storms and how the people had to walk through tunnels when the snow was shoveled to clear the walks. Some of the drifts were five to six feet high. Once George Livingston had to stop with his dray and give Bess a ride to work. Another time the drifts were so deep that she couldn't pull her feet out to walk and Omer Erb carrying mail came along and assisted her. This happened near the Dr. Wilson home.

When the Bards arrived here there were only board sidewalks and the First National Bank building was in the middle of the street between where the two banks now stand. It was in the process of being moved to the present location. The old Opera House had ten steps leading up to it and Bohnings lowered the steps making a handier entrance.

"What fun we had at the skating rink in the old Opera House," Mrs. Shaw said. She also remembers that Habicht's was The McCoy Hall and the front housed a tailor shop.

There were 8 or 9 clerks in the store among them Bess as cashier, (remember the enclosure where she used to sit?) Edith Henyon, Andrew Churchill, Dewey Fintzel, Ora Zimmerman. This was the first Cash and Carry store in town and handled dry goods, women's wear, men's wear, groceries, and what have you. There were hitching posts at the side of the store and trees in front. A picture shows the store with a group



of men in front, dated January 27, 1908, in their shirt sleeves and wearing straw hats, playing quoits. Some of them had umbrellas too.

Bess remembers the three day races held east of town. At one time the race track covered the lot where the Shaws now live. There was skating there in winter. Later Ote Collins built the race track on his farm east of town.

"Jim" Bard used to rent a horse and buggy and take land buyers out to see the farms and sometimes they went so far in one day they did not return until the next day. There were several livery barns with rigs for rent.

Almost every other door housed a land office in those days.

The Shaws came here from Manson, Iowa in 1902 and Albert started in the drug store in 1919. At one time he owned the drug store with Ote Collins, then with Tom Collins and again with Ote Collins. He retired after 45 years work in Collins and Shaw drug store.

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Fred Sedam writes for us:

Mother, Ned, Howard, Meda, Jennie and Fanny aged nine months, and myself arrived in St. Lawrence by train about April 20, 1881. Father and John had come earlier and well I remember the night we arrived. The train stopped at the crossing near the old Ellsworth place since the siding started there and ran to the creek west. When the train stopped there was Dad and John as big as life and Levi Price waiting to say hello. We got in the lumber wagon and went to the house a mile south. It was 14x20 and a story and a half. To reach the upper story there was a ladder nailed to the studding which I climbed. I failed to see a tie across the center and it put me out for the rest of the night. But I was the first one up the next morning and stole out to explore. I looked all the houses over and a big dog belonging to Mr. Kelly who was staying at the camp started to follow me back to the house. I started to run and he caught my arm. I wasn't hurt, only scared. After breakfast the horses had to be taken a half mile to the creek to water and Mr. Kelly let me lead one of his horses and I thought he was the finest man I ever knew and haven't changed my mind since.

One time we saw the neighbors going by on the run with whatever they could gather up. It was an Indian raid so we waited for the tomahawk but it was only a scare. When they telegraphed to Ft. Mead for help the commander of the army



and the troops at the Fort were standing by.

I remember when Miller had the July 4 celebration and had asked 50 Indians and 400 came and camped on the brow of the Ree Hills.

After the Sitting Bull scare we had a Captain Borken who drilled our company every night and we had 12 rifles allotted to us. We planned to put the people in the brick block known as the Masonic block and defend them with the rifles if necessary.

My mother used to bake bread for the bachelors. I have seen her use a sack of flour a week and I had to knead the bread.

We went to church and Sunday School at first in the King building and in the Clark building across the creek where Carter's Garage now stands. Clark had a print shop and post office in his building.

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Pat Hayes' daughter, Mary (Mrs. Lloyd Johnson), tells us of the early church at Duncan:

"In the early days church services were held in the school houses and the homes. The Catholic communities were served by the Rev. Fr. Pius in the homes. In 1899 the Catholic church was completed and was located on my father's homestead. My father, mother and sister were later buried there.

Barrels of clothing were shipped to Dakota to help the poor, struggling homesteaders and from one shipment diphtheria was contracted and many children and some older people died. At that time there were no established cemeteries so people buried their dead on their farms. Many of the graves were unmarked and later were pastured or farmed as any other land.

The only celebration we attended in the early 1900's were the 4th of July in a neighbor's grove and the So. Hand - No. Buffalo old settlers' picnic. At the time that Pierre and Mitchell were battling for the State Capitol, the Pierre promoters were at the old settlers' picnic with buttons, "Pierre for Capitol." They pinned them on anyone who would let them. My mother's folks had settled nine miles from Mitchell so she was favoring Mitchell. Every time my father came near with a "vote for Pierre," pin my mother took it off. We children saved the pins and had a good supply to play with.

Mrs. Johnson remarked: "I wouldn't mind going through the early days again but I'd dislike to have to gather the dusty cow chips and do without electricity."

She also added a bit about Fr. Pius. He came from the



Crow Creek Indian Reservation, a newly ordained Catholic Priest aged 25 years and worked as a missionary all of his life. He worked with the Indians and whites and served the Miller parish from the early 1900's till 1906, when Miller got their own parish priest.

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C.C.Campbell. Lee Campbell remembers helping his Dad survey land from the southeast corner of Pratt Twp. in Hyde Co. to 12 miles west of Pierre. They lived on the job in tents. The survey ran right through a big house owned by the Rossmans who had formerly lived in Miller. It was moved in 1913.

One time Dad Campbell, Waldo Eakle and Lee drove to Peter Tinglested's farm (he is now 96 and lives in Highmore) to get water which was supplied by a dam, banked with manure piles. The well was in the middle of the dam. Result: you drink what you can get when thirsty.

There were nine men in the crew and one day they ran out of bread. It was Lee's duty to go to Edmund Crow's home and get some for supper. The men had never seen whole wheat bread before so when they began asking "how come the bread is brown," they were informed that the Indian woman mixed the bread and the first was brown and as her hands became clean the bread got whiter.

In 1913 the Campbell company lost all their equipment in a prairie fire in the Big Bend country. The grass was three feet high and when the fire came they had no chance to save their belongings.

The Campbells at one time lived in Pleasant Valley Township on a homestead. Dad Campbell was in town and Mrs. Campbell home with four year old twin girls and a small baby (Dean). She looked up and saw two Indian faces peering through the window. One of them was Tommy Fastwalker and Running Geese. They had come to warn the settlers that the Indians were on the warpath and coming from Chamberlain. Fastwalker was friendly to the whites and could talk English. He told Mrs. Campbell to put out her light since they had been able to see it from the top of the hill. The Indians did terrorize the people in Buffalo County that time in 1892.

The people of Pleasant Valley Township raised hogs the summer of 1886 but found when they had raised them, fattened them and took them to town to sell them there was no market for them! So what did C.C. Campbell, surveyor and farmer do? He brought out barrels from town, filled them with salt brine,



added sugar and cured the hogs in this brine after butchering them. The meat kept well and the second year there was a dearth of pork with the market rising and Campbell then made a nice profit from his hogs.

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We appreciate the help Mrs. Will Wade (Margaret Yost) has given us with this bit of reminiscing:

In the spring of 1899 J.H. Yost arrived in Miller with an emigrant car and moved onto the Mead place two miles south of town. His wife Mary, and five children followed later by train. He farmed there that spring and made plans to move onto land he had bought relinquishment from Jessie Kintigh. It had no improvements but had two springs of water. In those days water was a big item. People had hauled from those springs until there were deep roads leading to them. They were both in a deep draw. Mr. Yost bought a house in St. Lawrence and moved it near one spring when Miller and St. Lawrence were battling for the county seat and he had been held up until taxes had been paid.

We lived in that draw just a short while as Mother didn't like being where she could only look up. She used to take her sewing and sit on the hilltops and look around the prairies. One day the family were all up on the level and Dad was breaking a strip of ground. Mother said, "This is just where I would like to live." Dad said, "This is where you will live." He went to see Riley Shaw who had a well rig and he came and dug a well and got water though it was quite deep (it is still being used). He made plans and moved the house again and lived there many years, 15 miles south and one west of town.

Dad brought one of the first check row corn planters from Iowa with him and planted corn for the neighbors and they would work for him in return. He also brought a black team, Bird and Bell, that he prized to plant with as they walked fast and even. He liked machinery and had a threshing machine in the fall. He once had charge of a dipping tank that was first put in by the county, close to the spring for the water supply. The cattle in this vicinity had Texas itch and all had to be dipped. Father took care of the heating system for that. I can remember we kids used to take his dinner to him and how the Englemann Brothers were there and they gave us cookies. We sure thought that was fun and we looked forward to the second dipping in two weeks.

None of us in the neighborhood had cars but we visited each



other more than we do now. We didn't wait for invitations, whole families loaded into the wagon or buggy and off for the day to visit.

In those days people bought their food in large quantities, cases of dried fruit, coffee by the 25 lbs., sugar by the 100 lbs., flour by the 20 sacks, and cured their own meat in barrels. So they didn't have to go to town when company came. They hauled their coal in the fall and many didn't go to town all winter.

Some of the real pioneers of South Hand County were Thomas and Mary Barrett who lived in the hills 18 miles south and about 1-1/2 miles east of Highway 45, in a basement house. They were of Scotch descent and had a family of eight children; Sam, John, Thomas, David, Belle, Agnes, Flora and Jessie. David who was born here is the one surviving member of the family. Jessie was only three months old when they came here, to live southwest of Pleasant Valley hall for some time.

Barrett was a coal miner and the family came here from Colorado in 1883. They drove through from Colorado with one horse and two oxen, taking 30 days for the trip.

Mrs. Barrett was a practical nurse and many people came for miles to get her to help them. She never refused and could take care of any case, childbirth, etc. and only the more serious cases had to be turned over to a doctor.

We should mention Alice Richardson, who later married O.C. Knox. That is how most folks would remember her. To her we can credit most of our good entertainment. She was a music teacher and organized the community club known as Ladies' Union Club still meeting once a month, and sponsored several home talent plays and a flag drill on horses. She and her husband left for California, his former home, and both are gone.

The Kintigh family were some more of our pioneers. They had five boys and five girls and I believe that all the girls taught school. I remember when Jessie rode her bicycle about five miles to our school. She was my first teacher, was a wonderful person and taught for years in St. Lawrence and is still living in Huron with her sister, Mrs. Earl Swab. They are the only ones left of this good pioneer family.

Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Wade came here from Union County, S.D. near Akron, Iowa. Wade was told he had to change to a



drier climate for his health so he started out with a team to find a new location. He came to Chamberlain and met Oscar Dearborn who brought him here to look at a farm on the north side of Wall Lake. That was in 1899 and his son Will still lives on the same place.

This story is told about moving day for the Wades: Will tells of their landing in Miller with a car of cattle, one of sheep and one of household goods the spring of 1900. Neighbors with whom they became acquainted helped them move out. They were M. A. Parmely and Dearborn. They and Dad came on with the household goods and Will and a cousin started with the stock, which seemed like a long, long trip. They had trouble with the lambs playing out, the cattle needing water. They found a dam at Stoney Run and managed to get to their destination at 2 a.m. They had had nothing to eat so the boys milked the cows into their mouths along the road and had bread and milk when they got there. Needless to say they were both tired when they arrived home.

Wade brought a nice herd of Angus cattle and sheep with them. There were 11 children and the family saw hard times and good times with the rest of the settlers. Mrs. Wade did dressmaking, and was on call to help in time of sickness. She always found time to help the neighbors. They carried water up a hill for years for household use and now since we have electricity to do the work we have found that there was water most any place on the farm. There are now five shallow wells with one in the basement for the water system and for irrigating the garden. None have ever gone dry.

The Wades moved back to Sioux City in 1918 and later returned to Miller where they were living when they died.

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The Yost and Barrett youngsters had fun and among their activities they played with an old buggy without a tongue. They tied ropes to the front axle, would pull it to a hill west of the Barrett farm, all get in and guide it down the hill by means of the rope.

The families spent several Christmases and Thanksgivings together.

Sam Yost, one of the children was drowned in a dam on the Durand farm (Reese ranch). This happened June 19, 1901. Yost had sent the boy, aged 13, to Durands to borrow a hatchet while he, Yost, was working in the cornfield about a mile and a half away. The lad was a good swimmer and thought he'd take a



swim before returning home. He and a small boy belonging to the Durands went to the dam and Sam dove in while the little boy waited and waited for him to come up. He never did! The boy then ran home and told his mother who came to the dam and called frantically. Then she sent one of the little girls on a horse to the field where Yost was working. He mounted a horse and came at once and went into the water with his clothes on. He dived many times before he found Sam's body. A buggy we brought with a tick for padding and Sam was taken home. By nightfall the yard at Yosts was full of teams and buggies, kindly neighbors who came to the family in their sorrow. There were no telephones so how did the word get around so quickly?

The ladies were tying a quilt at Pleasant Valley Hall one day when club met. O. C. Knox said he'd give \$5.00 to the club if they could finish the quilt without talking. How the ladies managed to keep straight faces and remain mute will never be known but they collected, although all the men present tried to get them to break their silence. Some of the group were Mrs. A. W. Wade, Mrs. J. H. Yost, Mrs. O. C. Knox, Mrs. Copeland, Mrs. Robinson, Thurza Robison, Mrs. Lizzie Geiver, Mrs. Mary Geiver.

When the Yost family were sitting around in the evening during the winter, Laura was playing with the youngest member of the family, a cute little fellow about four years old, her little brother Willard. He sat astride her lap as she sat in a small rocking chair. She was hiding a locket for him to find. She rocked back and threw it into her mouth and it lodged in her throat. It was larger than a quarter but could not be moved. The folks tried every way to get it but it had caught. Had it not been a flat object her breath would have been shut off. It was a long night, mother getting up often and the next morning they hitched a team to the sled and took her to Miller. From Miller they took the train to Pierre. Dell McCarl, working at the Yosts kept the children with the help of Edythe Van Rankin. At Pierre several attempts were made to get the locket out by inserting an instrument down Laura's throat and then opening it up. Finally it caught in the bristles and came out. It was good news for us at home when Nor McCarl came by from town and let us know she was alright.

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Some early settlers of Hiland Twp. were Oscar Bute and family who came from Cary, Ill. in 1884. Mr. Bute came first in 1883 and filed on a homestead. His father also filed on adjoining land and they built their house on the line and both



families lived there to prove up their homesteads.

Bute was railroad brakeman under Charles Henshaw. There were lots of folks coming west with their immigrant cars that helped him make up his mind to move to S. D.

A.H. Abbott, a brother of Mrs. Bute, and family, also came from the same place and settled in the same township in 1885. At that time they had two boys, Ted and Fred. Fred was killed in an accident with a buzz saw in 1950. Mr. Abbott was sheriff of Hand County about 1904 and later went back to Illinois but came back part time to look after his interests.

After the blizzard of '88 Abbott was making the rounds to see how his neighbors came through the storm. He went to Hansons and they told him how the stove had smoked, caused by the down draft. Mrs. Hanson had thought the house on fire and a lad, Nels about 10 years old, got so scared he went out in the storm found the sod barn and dug a hole with his bare hands to get in. He froze his hands and Abbott noticed that his fingers were black and thought he should have a doctor. He went after Dr. Lane and helped him take off the fingers and thumbs to the first joints.

It was thought that Nels would have frozen to death had it not been for a big Newfoundland dog he had in the barn and that he held onto to keep warm.

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Parden Kenyon was one of the early settlers in Hand County. He lived on the north bank of Wall Lake with his father and mother. Later he built up a place a half mile north and lived there for years. He was a bachelor and was kind to his old parents. The neighbor women used to go there and wash his mother's hair and bathe her when she was unable to do for herself. These old folks lived to be quite aged and Pard was there to take care of them until they passed away. He stayed on the place and at last moved to Miller where he died about 1920.

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The Cranstons, Cul, Jim and their sister Carrie, were early settlers here. They lived about 15 miles south and two east of town and when we think of them we remember they were lovers of nice horses, sorrels with white faces, racing strain. Cul especially liked to enter them in the races held around here and usually won.

Carrie used to ride always on her side saddle. We often saw her come to what is now Highway 45 for their mail. They were a quiet and kind family. They drove regularly to the



Pleasant Valley Congregational Church, but all now have passed away.

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Floyd McCarl has this to say about the McCarl family:

The A.P. McCarl family came from Audrain County, Missouri to Hand County in the spring of 1884 and moved to Mondamin Twp. where they homesteaded. The family was the parents, seven boys and two girls. Father had come in 1883 and built a house where they lived for years. At the beginning they had four mules, one horse and one cow.

There were no roads, everyone had to just start and go in the direction he was supposed to go. There were no fences nor pastures and no one of whom to ask the way.

I came to Miller in 1904 and ran a livery barn for 20 years until the cars came and then the livery business was a thing of the past, but we are still here, plodding along.

The oldest sister and brother and the youngest brother and Mother and Father died several years ago. A nephew, Herley McCarl and family live on the old home place.

If it hadn't been for the good neighbors and friends that the settlers had it would have been pretty lonely. But it seems that everyone was in the same boat, just trying to get a start and neighbors helped each other.

Continuing data about the McCarl family, Roy McCarl gives us this information: When the McCarls arrived via immigrant car with their seven children they filed on land a mile east of the Ames store. They built up a home and lived there several years, then moved a mile north to the Will Greeves place or the well known McCarl farm. McCarl traded two heifers for the relinquishment, he also owned land where the springs were that J.H. Yost later bought.

There was a sod house in the northeast corner and a prairie fire came along and burned this and several horses. This was the worst prairie fire that they ever had, it started somewhere south of Ree Heights and burned to Mitchell.

Roy McCarl said that he has worn out many sacks dragging them around picking up chips and also remembered about the family sitting twisting lake hay from Wall Lake to keep the house warm. They burned this in a big round drum that sat on an iron frame. They would take this drum out doors and tramp it full of hay or cow chips, take it in, light it with a match through a small opening near the bottom and this would last all day. They used this fuel in the cookstove too. There wasn't



much farming those days and they did it with horses. The McCarl boys remember herding cattle from early morning till they lay down for the night, there were no lots nor pastures but lots of open prairie.

McCarl had one of the first horse power threshing machines, and threshed for miles around.

McCarls lived on their farm to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1919.

In June 1907 tragedy struck this family when George McCarl, the oldest son, was digging a well on the Willard Shaw farm. He struck a rock down 100 feet and dynamited it that day. The next day he went down with a bar to take it loose. The fumes had stayed under it and he was overcome. He didn't have on a harness as he should have had but had tied a two by four on a rope. Lester Ludlam let him down. White John Scott went down and brought him out but he had suffocated while in the hole.

Mae McCarl, a daughter, was a teacher in a rural school. She married Jim Kintigh and their daughters still live here; Alice Knippling, Elthe Schrader, of Faith, Alta Johnson and Dorothy Taylor. Roy McCarl lives in Miller, Nor in a Rest Home in Aberdeen, Floyd in Miller and Ethel Geiver in Seattle.

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The two Halen sisters were alone in the schoolhouse in Rose Hill Twp. and burned desks to keep warm while their brother trying to reach them in the storm died near the Ross farm.

It is interesting to know how some townships got their names. Hiland was named for Charles Hiland who lived on the south bank of Cottonwood Lake. Ohio Twp. came from a group of homesteaders from Ohio, the Tanners, Fryes, Frank Clark who lived at the foot of Tanner Hill named after the Tanners, who lived across the road from what is now McCool School. Other settlers around Ohio Twp. were the Pruners and Williams, a Dr. Sweetland, and Dr. Buckingham who proved up their land and practiced during the time. The Frye's lived on the McCool place in the early days.

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Evan Newell and wife and five children from Towyn, Wales homesteaded in Gilbert Twp., Hand County in the spring of 1882. Their daughter Annie married Evan Jones and they came to America when Richard Jones, his wife and family of six came from Wales May 12, 1883. The Newells had decided religious convictions and he soon encouraged the settlers to



meet in his home for religious services and Sunday School. In 1886 they built Beulah Church but they had had services in a granary owned by Rob Jones for two years. Richard Jones was an elder with M.E. Chapin, H. Reed and E.M. Jones. Rev. Chapin was the minister from 1887 to 1890.

The manse was moved away and they bought the church from the Presbyterian Board and it later became a Community church.

For some time there was an inland postoffice known as Hope-land postoffice in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Greene.

Each family was fortunate if they had one team of good horses and these were worked hard breaking sod. Newell often walked 16 miles to St. Lawrence and carried home a 50 lb. sack of flour on one shoulder and a pail of groceries in the other hand.

These families, with many others, went through many hardships; fires, blizzards, drouths, but they kept striving and finally got a fresh start in this new land and for many of the number it brought better health. - From Mrs. Gordon Conkey.

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"The T. J. (Top) Robison family came to Dakota as permanent pioneer settlers," writes Thurza Robison, "in the spring of 1887 their first home being near that of Mrs. Robison's parents, the J. W. Barbers who came to north Buffalo County in 1883.

Later Top filed on a tree claim which became their home across the road from the site of the present Robison home. Among the Buffalo Co. neighbors were the Graces, the Dick Hayes and Cains. In Mondamin Twp. we had the Johnsons, Rosses, Kintighs, Wades, Seth Wilcox, Cawoods, Greeves, Edmonds, Erbs, and Porters to name a few. One of the Greeves brothers lived where the Fred Seiman home was later, he was one of the first settlers in that township. When it came time to name the township the settlers decided to call it "Greeves," but Mrs. Greeves objected and chose "Mondamin."

Those early settlers proved themselves real pioneers by staying on through many hardships, including the big blizzard of '88 that took six lives in Hand County and much of the livestock, a terrible ordeal. Mr. Kintigh was out in that blizzard 25 hours and was found by the Grace family ten or twelve miles from home. The following spring, another ever-present dread of the prairies, was a fire that started in south Hand County April 2, 1888 and went to the railroad east of Plankinton with nothing to check it in all that distance.

The families often had "poor, lone bachelors" in for meals



and the Johnson brothers, Will and Ren insisted on returning the compliments. Will, especially, was a real cook. Was his cornbread ever good! The Robisons still have his recipe.

My first teacher was Mae McCarl, there were five of us the first day. "Teacher," John and Florence Murphy, my brother David and I. For many years I have been the only one living. My last country teacher was Jessie Kintigh.

The cattle itch that came to our state from Texas was a real setback to our livestock industry. For several years father had charge of the dipping tank in our community but finally hard work, rigid quarantine and disinfection wiped out the disease.

You have no doubt heard about the quilt we made without speaking even one word and won \$5.00 from Mr. Knox (it was not his fault someone didn't speak). Another good time supervised by Mr. Knox was a play "The Old Maid's Tea Party." Earnest Frahm was the only man in it and of course all the old maids were desperately in love with him but he couldn't even see us. I was director for the music and my baton was a stick with a piece of tin nailed on one end, had to beat time out of tune, (try it)! We all wore old style clothes, black poke bonnets and black ruffled sateen aprons. In one selection my apron came untied and I was never so embarrassed! Anna Burns fell flat going up the steps onto the stage. Mr. Knox congratulated us for excellent work well done saying that my tussle with the apron and Ann's fall were perfect, the most natural acting he ever saw.

Two events organized "way back when," are still in existence, the Old Settler's Picnic and the Ladies "Union Club."

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Interesting data concerning the King family comes from Bertha Williams, Dr. Frances King and Mrs. Ed Eagleton.

Mary Parks King was born in New York December 31, 1854 and was twice a pioneer, a daughter of parents who were also descended from early pioneers of this country.

In 1879 and 1880 when there was great enthusiasm and interest in lands opened for settlers in S.D., John M. King, editor of a Rochelle, Ill. newspaper, sold it and took the train for Siding No. 3, St. Lawrence. There was just one building there, the home of Charles Shepherd, the section boss. King filed a claim on the land east of the creek and built a shanty, later building a hotel and two nieces from Rochelle came out and helped him run the establishment.



In 1882 he went back to marry Mary Parks who had graduated from Northwestern University with the class of 1878 and taught school. When they arrived in Dakota they went to the hotel where bachelors had been living for three weeks. Mrs. King faced the disappointment of finding her new home dirty and barnlike with a barrel of dirty dishes to be washed. A neighbor helped her bring up the water from the long hill and showed her how to wash in hard water. With Mrs. Nelson's help they got the job done.

Eight boys and two girls were born to the Kings. Starting with the year 1887 there was a crop failure every year. King took his older children into the fields to pick cow chips for fuel.

They were offered a farm to rent in Illinois but they decided they'd rather be land owners in Dakota than renters in Illinois. Later years proved this to be a wise decision for good crops came and they were able to build a modern home, send the younger children to college and afford a summer traveling in Europe.

Mrs. King was always ready to help the neighbors and at one time sponsored the raising of funds to send a crippled lad to Minneapolis for treatment.

One of the twin daughters of the Kings was Maud (Abbott) who was born in St. Lawrence Aug. 21, 1885. As a little girl she helped her father in the fields and he said of her: "she can take care of a binder better than a man." Once she was instrumental in saving the life of her baby brother.

She married Ted Abbott in 1904 and they lived in Spring Lake Twp. and later ran a store in Miller. Mrs. Abbott was a mother to many young married couples and was always ready to lend a helping hand. She died in January 1954 and it was said of her: "Mrs. Abbott was known for her unselfish devotion to those with whom she lived. When the stresses and strains of living were great her children turned to her for guidance, finding her a tower of strength, asking little for herself she found happiness in doing what she could to help others."

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Ed McKinney has cooperated with us in giving us this information:

"I was born in Pike County, Ill. November 10, 1876 and at the age of five years moved with my parents and grandparents by covered wagon to Audrain County, Missouri. I was nine years old when we came by train to Miller in February 1886 and have been in Hand County since except short trips out of state.



Maude Ree Hubbard and I were married Oct. 28, 1903 at Miller by the Rev. Swartout at the Christian parsonage. We lived on my grandfather Ross' place which I had rented in the spring of 1904. We moved to the old John White place in Logan Twp. now owned by Henry Eschenbaum, in 1906. We moved to my homestead in Glendale Twp. now owned by Tim Christopherson to whom I sold in 1942, and later moved to a home in north Miller which we bought in 1918 where Roy McCarl now lives. We sold this house in 1945 and bought the Doug Miller house.

My wife, who was the first white child born in Ree Heights, Aug. 18, 1882, died in 1952 the day after her 70th birthday. Since June 1953 I have lived with my daughter Fern, (Mrs. Earl Taylor) and Blanche, (Mrs. John Campbell). I keep busy with garden and household chores.

I remember the awful blizzard of '88. You couldn't see your hand before you. One of our neighbors, Alex Thompson froze to death. He started from Miller and was found in Logan Twp. He turned his horses loose and one came home, the other died."

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Thomas H. Kintigh and his wife Mary Alice came from Ohio to White Lake, S.D. by train in 1884 in company with Mrs. Kintigh's married sister and her husband. Each family had eight children making a total of 16 children in the group, all cousins.

Mrs. Earl Swab, (Bernice Kintigh of Huron) told us that the family lived on Tanner Hill in Ohio Township and three of the children in the family died of diphtheria. Another infant is buried in the cemetery on Tanner Hill with these children. Later the family moved to Mondamin Twp. where they lived when the father was lost in the blizzard of 1888 and found alive at a farmhouse.

Kintigh later operated the Dean Postoffice that was first located a half mile east of where the Kintigh farm was located. When the main road went through where the highway now is, the Kintigh house was moved over nearer the road. Mrs. Swab was born at Dean P.O. that was in their home. She remembers rural carriers Mr. Pennock and his son Loren who drove a team of donkeys from Miller to Dean to Richards in the Dye neighborhood.

The Pleasant Valley Congregational Church and Kintigh School are familiar places having stood north of the Kintigh place for over 60 years. The Kintigh girls used to ride bi-



cycles. There were 14 children in the family, Fanny, Jessie, Idessa, Grace, Willis, Warren, Frank, Jim and Bernice, and the four who died when children. Only Bernice and Jessie, 85 April 10 now remain. Among the neighbors whom Mrs. Swab remembers are a Mr. and Mrs. Mace who lived on the place later known as Phil Cotton's and with whom Dan Phillips, later to become her brother-in-law, lived. Others were the Burns, the Donohues, Parmelys, Lynchs.

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Otis Palmer, a former resident here, owns a prized ox yoke made by his wife's grandfather Johnny Batchman shortly after the Civil War. Batchman was a soldier for three years during the War, a little fellow about five feet four inches tall, loved by everyone who knew him. After he married he moved to Cass City, Michigan and Mrs. Otis Palmer's mother, Mary Batchman Porter, was born there.

Cass City was in the heart of the woods and the family lived in a lumber camp four miles from town. Besides making the ox yoke Johnny made a rolling pin, still in the Palmer family and the only one that Gladys Palmer ever owned, it will be handed down to her daughter Gale. Grandma Batchman wanted to make a pie so her husband carved out the rolling pin and she used birds eggs to make the first pie, a custard one, with the new pin.

The ox yoke came in handy when they hauled logs in Mich. and to drive the oxen after they moved to Ohio. It is now in the fire hall at Custer, S. D.

The Batchmans homesteaded in Hand Co. in 1884 and later moved back to Delta, Ohio after proving up on their claim. The house on the homestead was built from logs cut in Ohio and brought to Dakota by emigrant car along with a team of horses, cow, ox yoke and household goods. Grandma Batchman served as a country doctor in south Hand County and many folks living here today were delivered into the world by her, including David Barrett of Miller.

Mrs. Palmer's father, Cal Palmer, homesteaded in Mondamin Twp. in 1884 the same as Batchman did in Glendale and moved to the homeplace in 1897. The Porters and Batchmans were always ready to help those in need and often were called on to help the neighbors in sickness and death in the pioneer days when doctors and undertakers were hard to get on short notice.

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Stevens - as given to us by Billy Stevens:

Oren E. Stevens came to Hand Co. from Toledo, Ohio in 1884 when about 15 years old. His parents settled in Mondamin Twp. about a mile and a half southwest of the Halbig farm.

Ree Heights was at that time a booming town and the Stevens' shipped their carloads of household goods, machinery and one team of horses and one team of oxen there. Oren started out toward the homestead that April day with a load since the weather was fine. The sod house had been built when the father had come out in 1883. A blizzard overtook Oren and he became lost, having to spend that first night in a haystack. The next morning everything was covered with snow but he hitched up his team and went on to the house.

He often told stories to his grandchildren of the blizzard of 1888 when the sod shanty was drifted clear under. The day of that storm Oren didn't get to school because they were busy caring for the stock. He remembered that when they turned the cows out they would come right back into the barn.

When the big fire came it burned within 80 rods of the Stevens place.

Billy Stevens still has the yearling yoke that belonged to his father and the Penwell cradle in which the Penwell girls were rocked as babies. They were neighbors of the Stevens'.

Mrs. Oren Stevens was Lena Schmidt who came from Denmark, Germany and to Hand Co. in 1884 when she was five years old, accompanying her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Schmidt. They lived a half mile south of Halbig's.

At one time the Schmidts had the Glendale postoffice in their home. During the big fire Halbig put Lena and two Halbig girls into a buggy and pushed it into the dam where they sat till the fire had passed. Schmidts were completely burned out by that fire.

The family of Mrs. Stevens includes Marie Cotton, Rose Sayre, Helen Streeter, Delbert and Carl "Ted" Schmidt.

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These are the precious memories left by Nina Blatchford who passed to her reward this winter :

"We came to S.D. in 1883 from the Twin City of St. Paul. My mother had a sister here who lived in a sod house. We stayed with her till we could move a shack, it was 12x12. We moved it on our claim and started a home. There were four children and my mother; I was the oldest.

The first winter was pretty tough, we sodded up the house.



We got a man with his ox team to break the sod. We made a stone boat out of boxes and became the horses ourselves. It sure was hard work but we got it done and weren't we proud of it? There were no schools to go to so mother taught us our lessons, also our Sunday School lessons. There was no work to be got and when we did get it it was only 25¢ a day, sometimes less. One lady that lived five miles from us gave me a hen and a setting of eggs so we raised eight hens from them. The next thing was a hen-house. We dug a hole four feet square and two feet deep and built a sod wall over it and put a hay roof on it. that was our hen-house.

We burned buffalo chips and twisted hay to cook with and the straw burner for heat. Maybe you never saw a straw burner. It is a boiler two feet high with a handle on each side. We filled it with hay or straw and took the front plates off of the stove and turned it bottom side up and lit it.

All our furniture we made even down to a trundle bed. We had no carpets or rugs, only what we could make and they were few as rags were hard to get, had to patch till there wasn't enough for carpet rags. The house was small but clean, if it was papered with newspapers. Our stove pipe just went through the roof.

We hadn't been there so very long till the Indian scare. Everyone pulled out for Redfield but we couldn't go because we had no horses or way to go, so just stayed, expecting to see the Indians every day, but we prayed for God to keep us and He sure did. Times were a little better for a while, we raised good gardens and potatoes. It kept the wolf from the door and I got a chance to herd a few cows and help a lady with her work so made eight dollars a month.

We braided straw in the winter and sewed it into hats for the children; there were two boys. At last they started to school in an old vacant house about a mile and a half from us. That's the schoolhouse I went to at the time of the blizzard of 1888. I had started to school that morning and saw the cloud coming so I ran back home just in time. A school teacher just four miles from us froze to death. We didn't have anything in to burn so we all went to bed and stayed there till the next morning. Had nothing to eat but dry bread but we all lived through it. The prairie fires were terrible and in 1884 took nearly all of our nearest town of Ree Heights. One fire split and went one mile west and one east of us; we thought we were doomed but we fought fire and came through it.



The farmers think they are getting it in the neck now. If they had had to take the prices we did! I saw eggs three to six cents a dozen and butter 10¢ per pound. We had to skim it by hand and churn by hand. Had no power, only our strength. Washing was all done on the board and water was carried from the well to do it. I've seen the times we had to haul water even for the stock, winter and summer.

In the winter the barrel was a coat of ice and sometimes the men's coats were frozen stiff. We've had hard times and good times, everyone was your friend. We went to a neighbors, a load of young and old people and moved everything right outside to dance and serve lunch. Now I'm an old woman and can't dance anymore but love to tell about the old times. My pardner is gone and I am alone. Signed Just Me."

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Memories by three sisters who lived in Rose Hill Twp.; Bella Lexie and Annie Ross.

Mrs. Ogee (Annie) Johnson of Rose Hill Twp. reports that her sister, Lexie Ross was born in Miller October 14, 1882. She is now married to George Graham and they moved to Canada in 1910. Mrs. Johnson says that they have worked hard as pioneers to help make this a good country for their children and grandchildren.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Ross, came to this territory in July 1882 from Sioux City, Iowa and were really pioneers enduring all the hardship of the pioneers and were Uncle Alex and Aunt Christy to all that knew them. Mrs. Johnson was born in Rose Hill Twp. July 15, 1884 and has lived there all her life except three years in Bates Twp. She says; 'we were hauled out, dried out many times, saw lots of big prairie fires but stayed and worked on, enjoyed the fellowship of our friends and neighbors and made a home. The pioneers were never too busy to help a neighbor or friend in need.

I can remember a neighbor, Mr. Noyes, coming to our place when word got out that the Indians were coming. He was going around in a road cart warning the people, I remember that we kids watched for days for the Indians but they never came although we had several such scares. We thought they would come from the west and that is where we watched for their coming.

Not many real old pioneers are left, not many stayed by good old S.D. Here are names of some that settled here about the time my folks did but most of them moved away. They were



the Halls, Moats, Topelo, Huntington, Osborn, Holmes, Nouse, Perry, Pringle, Gibbs, Kitts, Joe Borders, Lillies, Failings, Gouses, Littens, Johnsons.

Mrs. Lexie Ross Graham has written an interesting little book called "My Autobiography." We know you will enjoy the part about her pioneer life in Dakota and so we give the following:

"This is just a sketch of my life. Lots of good and happy days also lots of hard work and sad days.

First my parents pioneered to Dakota from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. My Dad had come out first and got a homestead, dug a basement and built a shack over it. Then Mother, two sisters and a brother came and were met at the train by my Dad with a horse and an ox hitched to a wagon. They drove some 12 miles to this little shack.

Dad was a carpenter (a wagon maker) and was kept busy building shacks for the pioneers moving in about that time. This was in July 1882 when my mother came out to the homestead and in the month of October, 1882 another daughter was born in the person of Alexandria Ross who went through life by the name of Lexie.

I was the first white child born in Hand County Dakota. There were nine children in the family, five girls and four boys. I said we pioneered, yes, that was the real pioneering days and I can remember a lot of hardships in Dakota as I was growing up.

They used oxen for many years breaking up their land with the little walking plows. When I grew to a size that I could carry a whip I used to follow Dad in the field and keep the shirkers in place. In time Dad got a team of horses and gradually built up quite a herd of horses and cattle. Times were very hard; everyone was in the same class. In the year 1888 on Jan. 12 was the worst blizzard in the state history. There was quite a lot of snow and Dad and two neighbors were out of coal. They set a day and all went together with their sleighs the 12 miles to Wessington. It took two days for the trip. The first day they got in, got loaded and the next morning left for home. It was cold but clear with a black cloud in the west. This came up fast and proved to be the terrible blizzard. Dad and the neighbors got caught about five miles from home but a short distance from a farm home. They were so blinded by the storm that they couldn't see anything and just headed for where they thought this house should be but never saw any-



thing till the horses came up against the house. These neighbors had seen them coming and were outside calling to them but they heard nor saw a thing till the horses stopped at the buildings. They managed to get the horses in the barn and find their way to the house where they stayed till the next day.

My mother and brother had gone to a neighbors in the morning to get a shovel to move snow from the barn doors and had just got there when the storm struck. The neighbors had to guard the door all that night to keep mother in the house. She had left five of us at home, brother Bill just a baby and no coal. I can't remember any thought of fear for those away from home. Dad had a nice bin of corn in the upper part of our house that was unfinished so my older sister Bella (Mrs. Floyd McCarl) and I carried corn downstairs all day to burn. My oldest sister Maggie took over at night and kept the fire going. In the evening we heard footsteps and thought it was Mom coming and all rushed to the door. It was a neighbor who had gotten caught out on horseback when the storm hit. He left his horse and walked after staying with his horse in some bushes and trees for some time. He, too, never saw a thing till he walked up against the building. He had a beard and the wind and snow had cut his face till it bled. His whiskers and face were one red mass of ice. He told my sister who he was and she let him in, got warm water and he got the mass of ice melted off. She got him some hot tea and something to eat. Maggie then put us cry babies to bed and we finally fell asleep listening to brother Bill crying (hungry of course). She got something fixed for him and he, too, went to sleep. This neighbor, Mr. Litten, was frozen quite badly on the face and wrists. They got him home after several days in bed at Dads. He gave my sister goods for a nice dress, red cashmere.

Next I remember frosty steps the next forenoon. I can't remember who got home first but it seems Mom and then Dad with the fuel and groceries. What a reunion!

There were 109 fatalities in Dakota in that storm.

My oldest brother passed away when 18 so we younger girls had to be chore boys. We plowed, harrowed, disked, cultivated corn and it was all walking machinery, except the disk. We made lots of hay, such huge long and high stacks.

We milked lots of cows and herded cattle, The last year and the last day we herded cattle kept for neighbors it snowed almost all day. The cattle stayed huddled together in some trees most of the day and Dad came to help us herd them home.



It was too cold to ride horseback so we waded through the snow on foot with our bare toes out.

I worked for Dave Erwins and they milked 21 cows. I milked that herd once alone when they went to town and were late getting home. They had a huge separator, hard to turn. They churned the cream and packed butter in 10, 20-25 lb. nice white tubs and shipped it. Mrs. Erwin and I used to have fun churning in a 25 gal. churn with a crank on each side. It took lots of muscle. Top wages on the farm were \$10 per month.

One nice summer day I met George Graham, a bachelor who needed a helpmate and he talked me into saying "yes." We were married and lived 15 miles from town but had a dandy team of mules. Then in 1910 we pioneered to Canada.

Mrs. Floyd McCarl (Bella Ross) gives us this bit of early day history concerning the "Ross Pedigree."

My parents were born and raised in Nova Scotia and lived there a number of years. There were three children born there, Maggie, Robert and myself. Then they moved to Sioux City and father worked for a number of years in a packing plant. From there they came to Hand Co. and lived the rest of their lives. My younger sister was born in a sod shanty on the hill down below the Richard's house at Sand Creek. The filled-in cellar is all there is left. A year or so later they built a frame house a half mile from there. The house had a flat roof with tarpaper and tarred over but it wasn't waterproof. Annie, the next sister, was born there and the day after she was born there was a terrible rain and we had to put pans and kettles all over the bed where mother and baby were to catch the water that leaked through. They got the roof put on after that and shingled.

We had one old team and three or four oxen to do the farming with. My brother Robert was two years older than I and we had four to five oxen to work. (We were dragging with them). He held the lines and I had a long pole with a leash on to keep the oxen going. We had five hitched to the harrow. (Brother was eight and I was six). There was a field of green corn beside the field where we were working. One of the oxen lay down and we couldn't get him up but I said "I bet I can get him up." I went through the fence and got a stalk of corn and stood in front of him shaking it. He got up and I gave it to him, he started right out and never lay down again while we worked him.

There were no pastures those days and anyone that had cattle had to herd them after the crops were in. Some days



the flies were bad and the cattle were restless and not contented anywhere. On this certain day they kept us both running after them. I was tired and crying and stepped in a big bed of those (nice?) cactus and I put the other foot down in another one because I couldn't see through my tears. Then I couldn't find a place to sit down and pick them out. Lexie was with me and came to my rescue and helped me find a place to sit down. Oh, how those thorns hurt when I pulled them out!

Some years we herded a lot of cattle with ours till people got fences built. The last year we had an old pony to ride and it wasn't too bad but it was pretty tough going out in the morning and staying till time to drive the cattle home in the evening, sometimes three miles from home.

My oldest sister Marguerite, (Maggie) married Dr. Milburn in Wessington but died while quite young as did my oldest brother Robert, who was 19 at the time, leaving me the oldest.

We went through the blizzard of 1888 and had a terrible experience but none of us were lost.

Papa and Mr. Tople, as Lexie has told, got lost returning from Wessington and it took them from early morning till four p.m. to find shelter, having traveled only 12 miles in that time.

Mama had sent our nine year old brother to a neighbor a half mile away to get a shovel and the storm struck when he had gone but a short distance. Mama was out choring and said she was going to meet Robbie and for us to stay in and not open the door because a bad storm was coming. The dog went with her and when she wanted to go one way the dog insisted on going the opposite way. The dog was following my brother's tracks that were drifting full. He would follow the tracks then run to mama and whine and try to get her to follow him. After he had done this several times she thought she had better follow him since she didn't know which way to go. He took her right to the door of the house where my brother was. She wanted to turn right around and go home but the neighbors wouldn't let her. She walked the floor all night crying and praying. The next morning when the storm let up she walked home through the drifts and found us all in bed. Her first words were, "Thank God you are all right."

She didn't notice that we had taken in a boarder, Mr. Litten about whom Lexie has also told, lived four miles away and had started on horseback to get his children at school. The horse got down in the snow about a half mile from our house



and he walked the rest of the way, getting into a window on the upper floor of our basement house. The children were frightened at the man covered with ice but we took him in and he helped us start the fire, using the ear corn upstairs. We got warm water so he could thaw off the ice and gave him tea and bread and butter, all we had.

We children had all piled into our folks' bed and I was baby tender. I fed the baby crackers and milk. We had made a bed on the floor for poor Mr. Litten. He was thankful to get in out of that storm. His face, wrists and hands were frozen and he must have been in a lot of pain but he never complained. He stayed with us several days and neighbors came, Mr. Moat, Noyes and Hall, with a sled and put Mr. Litten in it on straw, blankets and quilts. They all shoveled and finally got him home.

Another man, Johnnie Halen, had started to school to get younger children but he missed our house about 12 feet for they found his tracks where he tramped around a clothesline post then went on following the pasture fence, they found his mitt so knew it was he. They didn't find him for several days. Some people several miles south noticed their dog going to a certain place a few mornings where he would sit and howl pitifully. When they heard about Halen being lost they followed the dog and found him. It was a pity that he missed our house. The clothesline had been taken inside to dry clothes on, he just went on till he could go no farther. He was a brother of Tom Halen and Mrs. Katie Walters and their home was about four miles from ours. The Littens and Halens were neighbors.

My father, Alex Ross, gave ground and helped build the Rose Hill Church. Most of the help was donated by the settlers. Father had always wanted a church so the children and all the neighbors could get together on Sunday. He was so proud of that church! He never missed going to church or any other community entertainment as long as he lived there. He died when 93 years old.

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W. W. Rush and Minnie Mead Rush.

Grandpa and Grandma Rush came to Dakota Territory as newlyweds from Cambria, Iowa in April 1883. They homesteaded on the southwest quarter of section 22-114-69 in Alden Twp. Two of grandma's sisters with husbands and families also homesteaded in the same vicinity, but returned to Iowa.

How often they told us of traveling from Iowa to Dakota in a box car, bringing only three horses, one cow, 12 hens, one



rooster, a plow, wagon, a few sacks of seed oats, one table (which is still in the family,) four chairs, cupboard, bed, stove, cornmeal, molasses, beans and dried apples. Their emigrant car was shipped later the same year along with cars belonging to Ben Bowles, John Bowles, Frank Parrott and Jonathan Hutchings and several others who came on the same train as our grandparents. They built a semi-wood and sod house. Grandma had no broom, of course there was no floor in the house to sweep, but she borrowed a broom once a week from two bachelors living a half mile away to sweep off the 2x4 rafters. In 1884 they stored their seed wheat which came from Iowa, under the bed as there were no out-buildings.

Many are the tales we heard about the Indians who were frequent visitors, especially at butchering and harvest time. Although we were told many times of the scalplings nearby and how grandpa kept his gun by his side day and night, they were never a witness to any scalping scenes. Perhaps the incident we remember best is how the Indians would eat with them and after the meal would sit under the trees and pick lice out of each other's heads.

Grandpa's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Rush, two sisters and a brother came from Iowa in 1885. His parents homesteaded in Holden Twp. on what is now the Fred Chipman place. His sister, Mary, homesteaded on what was later known as the Roy Rush farm. In 1886 Grandpa and Grandma moved to the Mary Rush homestead and in 1897 they moved to grandpa's parents homestead and later improved the land west of this home by building a large barn which was cut off from the farm when the section lines were improved. This large barn still stands on the Clifford Rush farm. Our mother, Lettie Wilson, often tells how this barn was commonly used by strangers for a so-called livery barn. The strangers, often horse thieves, disguised the horses by painting white feet, stars in the forehead, bob tailing and trimming manes, so they would not be recognized as stolen horses. This was done late at night when the strangers were supposedly sleeping in the hay loft.

In 1923 Grandpa and Grandma moved to Miller where they bought a home leaving three improved farms in Holden Twp. Grandpa was a stockholder of the Citizen's State Bank for several years and up to the time of the bank crash. Both Grandpa and Grandma lived to be 86 years of age, although Grandpa was a partial invalid for 13 years, Grandma was very active until the last year of her life. They are buried in the "Old



Home" Sunbeam cemetery beside their two daughters who died in infancy. There are four living children: Roy Rush, Lettie Wilson, Clifford Rush and Bessie Chipman.

This was compiled April 12, 1956 for this book by Oral, Cecil, Lois, Wayne, children of Mrs. C. W. (Lettie Rush) Wilson.

It is interesting to note that in the near future no doubt the Rush family name will die out for the branch through which the name will be continued is Lloyd Rush, son of Roy Rush, and his children all are daughters.

C.W. Wilson, husband of Lettie Rush, can trace his family back 300 years in a book which has been written about them. Wilson came to Hand County in 1908.

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Karen Waring, granddaughter of O.W. Arbogast has written an interesting bit of history about her grandpa and his family:

Karen says that Otie Winfield Arbogast was born August 31, 1879 at Farber, Mo. His parents, the Henry Clay Arbogasts, were born in Iowa and one set of his grandparents was born in Germany. The original family included John, Melvin, Otie, Joe, Lee and Sarah (Mrs. Tim Jackson), and Alma (Mrs. John Lockett). They settled in southwest Hand Co. when they arrived here in 1884. The father came first and brought the stock and the family came in April by train. They filed on the southeast quarter of section 5-109-69 Mondamin Twp. They first had a wood house and then built a sod house with wood floor. The sod walls were plastered inside. They burned cow chips and heat for both heat and cooking with straw gotten from the bed of Hawkins Lake.

Otie, in recalling early day stories by his grand-daughter, told of the blizzard of 1888 when they were ready to go to school and the storm was so bad they stayed home. They remained inside except for going out to get straw to burn that was in a pile close to the house, but they could scarcely see it in the blizzard.

Melvin and Alma attended Center School in Hiland Twp. Otie remembered that his first teacher was Mrs. Sigwell Cawood and the schoolhouse, an old shack, was south of the present Floyd McKimney farm.

Other teachers were Jessie Kintigh, Myrtle Gilbert and Mrs. Bill Penwell.

The settlers were always frightened of Indians and one day Otie and his brothers were in the field when they saw some



Indians and they dropped into the furrows. He said that of course the Indians could still see them but they felt safer.

Mrs. H. C. Arbogast died in 1891.

April 3, 1891 a prairie fire, when Otie was 12 years old, came within a few rods of their home. Another fire south of the present Walter Johnson farm was a vivid memory to Otie. His future wife, Mary Louise Johnson, Helped fight it and when she got tired she drove the mules. They got so thirsty that they drank the water in which they had wet the rags they fought the fire with.

They were married Dec. 29, 1901 and the wedding dance was held in Uncle Will Johnson's sod shanty.

The first home of Mr. and Mrs. O. W. Arbogast was the present Ike Heezen farm, later they moved the house on the hill north of Willard Yost. It burned down and they rebuilt. Later all the buildings but the house were carried away by a wind storm. The house was moved and is now at Ames store. They built up the present Willard Yost farm before moving to town in 1943. They lived on the same quarter on which they filed from that early time till their move to town.

The wells in those early days were dug by hand. Once they lost track of a steer and found him in one of these wells, he had eaten the grass up as far as he could reach with his head.

Mr. Arbogast broke horses and one time the horse pawed at him until he was under the horse that then proceeded to chew off Otie's ear.

He bought his first car, a Regal, about 1910.

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The interesting data concerning the Engelmann and Winsell families was given to us by Mrs. Carl Winsell:

Her grandparents, Swantje and Onne Engelmann, came from East Friesland, Germany. The older sons came first and later sent for the rest of the family. They stopped for some time in Illinois and came on to Dakota in the early days. The family included John, George, Julius, Robert, Pete, Wert, Gertie (Mrs. Chase). They all settled on farms in Logan and Ohio Twps. and this became known as the Engelmann neighborhood. Grandpa Onne died and Swantje made her home with her children and lived to be almost 102 years old.

Wert and Lena Engelmann, Mrs. Winsell's parents, had \$500 in the bank when they started to Dakota from Illinois but they had it in a bank that went broke so that when they arrived here one of the brothers had to sell some wheat to get money



for them to get their cow and household belongings off the track.

During one bad blizzard Mrs. Engelmann sent Henry, the oldest son, after the girls at school. She stepped out to see if they were coming but could see nothing. By the time she had walked the length of the entry and opened the kitchen door they came in the entry door.

One year Dad Engelmann was on the election board and the snow was so deep he walked from home to the Corrin school house. This was in 1896 and it was impossible to get a horse through the snow. He had the ballot boxes and had to get there. Only the board were present that day.

The family of Wert Engelmann is Robert, Henry, Gertie, Anna, Lena, Etta, Elsie, Wert Jr. and Ida who died with polio.

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The Winsell family:

Mr. Winsell homesteaded in Alden Twp. but later went to N.D. Mrs. Winsell's family was the Herschmann's and they homesteaded northeast of Miller in Holden Twp.

The Winsells came back to S.D. in 1904 and settled on the farm on Spring Lake.

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Clare Hull's information about his family in the early days comes in a letter from his aunt Mrs. Maude H. Snively of West Union, Iowa:

Said Mrs. Snively, "Your grandpa helped build the railroad but he generally farmed. Here is some pioneer news as I recall it."

"My father Daniel D.T. Hull Jr. moved his family from Ia. to S. D. in 1885, they were his wife Calista, Clarence, Frank, and Maude. He went a year before and took up land and built a house; during the time there, later, he moved it to three other claims with teams and wagons. I remember riding in one of the rooms that was perched on the wagons. There were some hard years. In 1888 was the big blizzard lasting two days. Two families living near the school in Spring Lake, both by the name of Pruner, took the scholars and teacher to their home for overnight. There was a little slack in the storm the second morning. Clarence and Frank went home to do the chores as their father was away working for a man named Baker. By that time the storm increased and they tied a rope to their waists fastened to the house. They floundered around and finally got the cattle and horses fed and back to the house.

On April 2, 1889 a prairie fire was set accidentally and it



swept over half of the state to the southeast. A Mr. Babcock was burned to death and my father was burned very badly trying to save some buildings. He saved the house after starting a fire ahead. Mother and I held the horses while he went back and fought the flames. There was a small lake near that saved the cattle. Our chickens burned up and much old hay.

Our father carried mail by team from Miller to Gann Valley, for a number of months, taking two days for the trip. He managed to have dinner at home going and coming.

Later when the drouths came we moved back to Iowa. We had many happy times, good school teachers, sometimes college teachers came west and were very good. Winters the full grown boys came to school when not working out. Sometimes three schools or more went turn about each week for literary, debates, with games and dance, etc. afterward. Clarence Hull and Peter Geiver played the violin. McCarl, Matt Geiver or John Burns called off for the square dancing.

Once in a while a fight developed when two fellows wanted the same girl.

My father and brother liked to hunt wolves. I don't think they got any but they did get rabbits, ducks and prairie chickens.

At one time the postoffice was Dean on Spring Lake with Will Crecelius as postmaster. He had a store and I think that earlier one of the Pruners had it. Indians used to hunt ducks there and also at Wall Lake. I went to Miller, about 20 miles, for a July 4 with some neighbors in a wagon.

Brother Clarence married Edith Frye. (Clare Hull's mother and father. Mrs. Hull was a sister of Lloyd Frye).

Others I remember were Sweetlands, Tanners, Blackledges. Mr. Kintigh taught two years when I went to school. People by the name of Arno Winegar, Sherman, Williams, Phinneys, Donohues, Whitneys, Parmelys, Heilmans lived there.

Friendly Indians hunted at the lakes and we would visit with them outside their teepees. They didn't always talk to us."

Another aunt of Clare Hull, Mrs. Belle Frye Rex of Willard, Ohio, wrote this information to him; "I was about two and one half years old when our folks came to Dakota. Several families went together and our farm was south of Lloyd's (Frye). Among our neighbors were Dr. Buckingham and the Tanners. Dan Fink was the teacher of our school. In the blizzard he took his horses into the schoolhouse and stayed till it was over. I remember the prairie fires and could write a book



about them. I have an old ribbon from the time Pierre and Huron were battling for the capitol. During one of the prairie fires we kids were scared out of our wits. Mother told us to stay in the house, we did, we were too scared to go out. When sister, Edith, the oldest, came in from fighting fire her face was all black."

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Mrs. Anna Sessions in speaking of her parents tells us that Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Van Brunt and their two children, Flora and Eddie came to Hand County from Illinois in the spring of 1882. They moved to a claim about four miles north of St. Lawrence and about a year later exchanged that land for some northeast of town where they lived till they retired in 1910 and moved to St. Lawrence. They took an active part in community life and helped to build up this area.

Eddie was drowned in the creek near their country home in 1889 and Flora is the present Mrs. C. H. Williams. They had two other daughters, Anna and Klimene.

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Dr. G. H. Sessions was born and educated in Vermont. Later he graduated from the McKillep veterinary school in Chicago in 1910 and settled in Miller where he practiced for 30 years. He married Anna S. Van Brunt.

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Charles Williams was born and educated in Hand Co. and he managed the St. Lawrence Lumber Co. for 42 years. He retired and moved to Oregon in 1945. He married Flora Van Brunt and their family was active in community affairs.

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Mrs. Wilbur Ellis has given us an interesting account of her pioneer parents:

Mrs. Ellis' mother, Mrs. S. L. Wilkins, was born in Germany, Sept. 11, 1864 and often told interesting stories of how she made her own linen for household uses such as tablecloths, etc. She did all the work from getting the flax from the field until it was made into thread and then into material. If she wanted plaids or some color they sent it to be dyed. Her father thought the life there was too hard for girls and he wanted her to go to America where it was reported that girls got good wages. She was 18 years old when she came to America, taking 13 days for the voyage. When she arrived in New York May 13, 1883 she was given a German New Testament by a missionary. She first went to Iowa and two years later to S. D. to



take up a homestead but instead she filed on a tree claim about 18 miles south of Miller and paid for the plowing and planting of trees out of her big wages of \$2.00 per week.

She married Wilkins in 1899. He was born in Ausable Forks, N.Y. and at the time was working for a Mr. Coward at the Hayes Lucas Lumber Co. He filed on a homestead four and one half miles south of town in Logan Twp. and they made this their home for 18 years, their family was two daughters.

During those first years they had hard times, sold butter as low as 7¢ per lb. and as high as 12¢, shipping it to Wayne and Low of Chicago in 25 and 40 lb. wooden tubs. Wilkins once remarked that if it got any lower he'd use it for wagon grease. Eggs were six cents per dozen and he hauled hay to town for \$1.50 per ton.

Mrs. Ellis said she could recall her folks telling how they sold a two year old steer and put the whole sum of \$10 into a rocking chair to rock their first baby (Mrs. Ellis). So it was hard work here for the family but they always believed that "a rolling stone gathers no moss." so stayed with the rest of the old settlers, later moving to town in 1910.

"An incident happened when I was a small child and I can still feel the shivers. About midnight one night our dog began barking furiously and all at once stopped. This sounded suspicious so the folks, with the lights out, peered out the window and saw three big, tall men wearing large hats sauntering along toward our front door. They stood and talked a while and then walked to the kitchen door, still mumbling. About this time my mother grabbed a big butcher knife so in case they attacked my dad she'd try to protect him, even though he had a revolver. Dad couldn't stand the tenseness any longer so he quickly opened the door and asked what they wanted. They said they wanted a drink so dad said: "If you want a drink go to the horse tank and drink and then beat it." Not much sleep that night! The same description was given of some men seen in town the next day; they were half breed Indians. They had been to a neighbor's home before coming to ours and finding only children there had begged a loaf of bread which they had fed to our dog to quiet him.

We have had Indians camp near our house, begged for food and were friendly. Papooses were always hungry." (We heard this from others too, that the begging Indians always had hungry papooses).

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Jessie Moncur has outlined this bit of interesting history about her family:

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Moncur left Kirrimuir, Scotland in May 1879 and landed here after a three weeks ocean voyage. They then went to Wakefield, Ohio and spent several months with the Charles Moncur family who had previously come to the U.S. Charles Moncur was a blacksmith in Wakefield. Alex and his family of four moved to DeWitt, Ia. about 1880 and farmed for some 18 months. The Dakota Territory was opened for homestead filing about this time and the prospect of getting 160 acres of free land induced him to come with a group of others to Miller in the fall of 1882 where he filed on a homestead 14 miles north and two west of Miller. In the spring Mrs. Moncur and the family came by emigrant train April 19, 1883. They had a few pieces of furniture and a team of horses. They started with three horses but one died enroute. As soon as possible they built a house, one room, 14 x 16 feet, plastered inside and "sodded" up on the outside. All of the land was taken up as homesteads or tree claims and pre-emptions around the Moncur homestead. Since the settlers around were all bachelors Mrs. Moncur baked bread for all of them until they either proved up on their land or abandoned it and went back home. Crops were poor in those days and of the first five years crops, three of them were hailed out.

It was almost impossible to get water on the homestead and Mr. Moncur hauled water three miles in barrels in a wagon or stone-boat. In 1892 the Moncur family moved to a location on Wolf Creek on the northwest quarter of Sec. 5, Alpha Twp. This was their family home till 1945. The only living members of the family are Jas. R. Moncur who lived on a farm 11 miles north of town and Jessie Moncur of Miller. This is the original Moncur family: Mrs. Alexander Moncur, Anna A. Moncur, David Moncur, Alexander Jr., James R., William, Jessie.

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Walker and Rosa Lewis, the parents of Roy W. Lewis came here in a covered wagon in 1882 and settled in Ontario Twp. They lived in a sod hut but later built a shanty. Being unversed in the pioneer way of building a sod hut they found the sods were too far apart and when it rained, it really rained into the house.

Mrs. Lewis sat in a big box on the rainy days and held two babies, her own son and the child of a relative, to keep them



dry. They had brought a sister's baby along with them to Dakota.

The Lewis' had one horse and when the weather was bitter Lewis ran the horse up and down to get the ice off of him.

Lewis played for dances in Ree Heights and often walked there. Sometimes he brought home on his back a sack of flour, a pound of coffee and five cents worth of candy for the children. The family endured the hardships of the pioneer life such as befell all the other early day families.

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Thank you, Bernice Johnson, for this data:

W.W. Johnson, better known as Will, and his brother Lorenzo, (Ren) filed on homesteads in Mondamin Twp. in 1882. The spring of 1883 they moved from Oskaloosa, Iowa and made their home there continuously till their deaths, Ren in 1909 and Will in 1924.

Dec. 31, 1891 Will married Minnie Cawood who had come to this township in 1883 when eight years old, in a covered wagon with her father, mother, brother and sister. They lived on Will's homestead in a sod shanty where their three children, Arthur, Lois and Verne, were born. In 1897 they moved to their new house where their youngest son, Walter, now lives. Many hardships and many happy days were spent. Their well was the only one for miles and people came at all times, day and night, to haul water from it. Minnie was the midwife of the day and attended the births of most of the South Hand children for years.

Will's brother Royal came from Iowa later with his three children, his wife having died in Iowa. The children were Clint, Lily (Mrs. L.D. Arbogast), and Mary Louise (Mrs. O. W. Arbogast). Clint married Molly Cawood (Minnie's baby sister), and lived on the Cawood homestead for years. Mrs. Clint Johnson and Mrs. Arbogast are the only two living.

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The Compendium of Biography for Central S.D. Vol. 1, 1899 has this to say of John Pusey:

"The Hon. John Pusey, senior member of the well known law firm of Pusey and Baldwin, is one of the ablest representatives of the legal profession practicing at the Hand County bar. A man of sound judgment, he manages his cases with masterly skill and tact and is regarded as one of the best jury advocates in the city, He is logical, reasonable and has a ready command of English. He was born in Illinois May 5,



1861 of English and Irish descent and came to Miller in 1882 and was admitted to the bar in 1884. Sept. 3, 1884 he founded the Miller Gazette, the first Democratic newspaper started east of Pierre on the C & NW. After editing it a year he disposed of it. He was in partnership with J.A. Moon for two years and later was assisted by J.H. Baldwin. He was one of the organizers of the Democrat party in Hand Co. In 1892 he was county judge, in 1895 he was postmaster and in 1898 he was elected to the lower house of the State Legislature at Pierre representing Hand Co. He died June 7, 1937. His family is Edwin A., William J., Anna M., Bertha J., Ursula M. and Paul R. Only Bertha, Paul and Ursula (Mrs. Erlandson) are living.

We are indebted to Mrs. Erlandson for the excerpts from the journal of her father and from which we took only a small portion. The whole journal makes interesting reading and gives insight into the character of the writer whose ready flow of descriptive words is inspiring.

From the Journal of Hon. John Pusey:

Aug. 7, 1882- "When they told me of the beautiful land that surrounded Miller I was so taken up with their stories and predictions of the glowing future of Hand Co. that I called on a land agent by the name of Foster and made arrangements for him to show me over some of the country tomorrow."

Aug. 8- "We have been looking over some very fine country this forenoon and I have selected the acres as a homestead six miles northwest of Miller and expect to make this piece of land my home for sometime in the near future. This afternoon I expect to go down southeast of town and take a tree claim of 160 acres."

The evening of Aug. 8- "I am back from my tree claim expedition and will tell about our trip. We got an extra good horse and buggy from the livery man and off we went, traveling over some magnificent prairie lands dotted with the shanties that had been built by homesteaders who had left the States and come to this far off land.

About eight miles out we came to a beautiful lake which covered several sections of land with a few scatterings of trees on its margin making it look attractive to the eye of the sight seer or traveler. What excited our curiosity was on the east bank of the lake- we saw hundreds of little animals standing on their hind legs and barking at us almost incessantly. They would stand and bark till we were within 40 feet of them and



then would tumble down and drop out of sight in their holes.

Mr. Foster told us they were prairie dogs and lived in towns, sometimes their holes covered several acres of ground—snakes, prairie dogs and owls frequently dwelt in the same hole together. Many thousands of holes were all connected by underground passes or tunnels that the little creatures had made. I decided it would be useless to try to dig one of them out. Later we came to the valley of the famous Wessington Hills and I chose my tree claim of 160 acres.

Once myself and Mr. Corbett were going out to locate a man and we came to a little narrow creek with snow, slush and ice on each side and ice floating in the middle. We doubted that it was safe to cross but finally decided to try it to our sorrow. The horses got in about 10 feet of the channel, slush and ice gave way beneath them and they went mid sides with their heads nearly under the water for it was much deeper where their forefeet broke through. In a moments time we had dropped the traces and the horses lunged and plunged till they got in the channel. Instead of coming out on our side they made for the other side. There was no time to be lost, the horses had just been shipped here from Illinois and they were headed south. I quickly threw off my coat but the owner of the horses caught me and told me not to risk my life for them. I started up stream and after I had followed it about a half mile I came to a place clear of ice and I rushed in and got across and ran at top speed after the horses. After chasing them two miles I got around ahead of them and caught them. I crossed the stream and was soon back to the wagon. We tied a rope to the back part of the wagon and hitched the horses at the end of the rope and hauled the wagon out of the slush. We didn't patronize that crossing anymore."

The first entry in the Journal Aug. 4, 1882 stated: "Going to Dakota Tomorrow."

Mr. Pusey spent six months of the early years teaching school at Oak Grove, Champaign, Ill. and six months living on his Dakota claim. His first meal in his new Dakota home was cooked over a fire made from shavings from the house and buffalo horns. In his diary he often speaks of finding buffalo bones on the prairie.

One journal entry after returning from a trip to Ill. says: "On our way here we ran into a railroad blockade at Tracy, Minn. where the railroad was blockaded with snow and ice for 30 miles west. About 100 of us decided to hire sleds and teams.



The sled I rode in upset once on the side of a draw and we were all thrown out. In the capsizing my trunk fell on top of an old doctor from Wisconsin, completely burying both him and the trunk in the snow. We got the doctor and the trunk out but he cussed and shivered till we reached Tyler. At Tyler an engine and baggage car was waiting to take us to Huron where we stayed."

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They Lived In So. Hand County, by Mrs. Leonard Brueggeman (Lida Geiver).

The Edward Donohue family came here in 1883 from De Witt, Iowa when my mother, Mrs. Mary Geiver was only six years old. Grandpa Donohue had come across the ocean to New York City when he was only 17 years old and worked as a brick layer. Soon his future bride, Anne Burns, came across and they were married. Their two oldest children, Lizzie and Rose were born here. Then they moved to De Witt where Mary and Charles were born.

Miller was just a siding when Donohues arrived. They bought a wagon, a horse and an ox and started out to their homestead 18 miles south of town to the place later known as the Kintigh farm. Their first home was a sod shanty, crudely constructed with a sod floor.

The winter after the big fire they moved back to Miller and Grandpa got work in the lumber yards. After they settled up their claim southwest of their first home they built a wooden house and moved back to their new home. Grandpa still worked in town to make a living for the family. Every Saturday evening he walked those 18 miles and carried provisions for the family. Then about 4 p.m. Sunday he started the long walk back to town.

The family went through all the hardships and privations as the other pioneers. They burned chips and twisted hay, roasted barley and ground it for coffee; brushed snow and icicles from bedding on snowy, blowy days and even stayed in bed all day to keep warm and save fuel; brought calves into the house to keep them alive after the barns had blown full of snow (in fact after the big blizzard they took the roof boards off the barn and the cows walked right out onto the snow banks).

My mother, Mary Geiver, had her 79th birthday April 18, 1956. She recalls vividly having only one pair of shoes a year, real heavy leather ones. She had to wear them a year (when they wore out she went barefoot till fall). In the winter she wrapped old rags around her shoes for overshoes as she walked



to Kintigh School for her formal education.

Grandpa was away from home when the big fire encircled their buildings. Grandma tried to save them, but they all burned except the sod house. Mother and Charles had been hiding eggs in the rafters of the barn to have for Easter and they were WELL baked!

After my mother finished grade school she taught school four terms in the school now known as Winsell School. She bought a bicycle and rode back and forth as roads permitted.

The Donohue girls did all their own sewing. When they were younger they would buy a whole bolt of percale and sew up their dresses for winter. Not a scrap was wasted for Mother made doll clothes for her rag dolls from the scraps.

Toys were mighty scarce and Mother, like all the other little girls, longed for a beautiful doll. Her greatest possession today is the only china headed doll she ever owned, it's entire length is less than eight inches.

Indians stopped at the Donohues many times. One time Mother said a whole load of them came into the house and warmed their hands over the fire. They would point at Mother's eyes and then at their own and laugh hilariously. Apparently her eyes were the same color as theirs. They asked for bread and after Grandma had given them all the bread she had in the house they left.

Mother told me many times how she and Charlie would walk to the store over on Spring Lake and carry a pail of eggs and sell them for six cents a dozen. With the money they would buy sugar, coffee, tea or salt; they were also allowed a few pennies for stick candy. They never tasted ice cream and Mother was 18 years old before she tasted a banana.

Grandpa Donohue was an easy going person who never worried about anything, his motto was "Blessed be nothing." Grandma too, never seemed to worry and was always singing at her work. Mother says she often asked her mother if she was ever unhappy or worried over fires, snow, crop failures, privations, etc. and she would say, "No, I was always the happiest person on earth." I always remember Grandma as happy and gay, even in later years when cataracts made it impossible for her to see.

We children all loved to go to visit our Donohue grandparents. Those big family dinners were one occasion when we youngsters were made to feel supreme for Grandpa would say, "In my house the children eat first and the grownups can eat



cold potatoes and chicken bones."

I can still taste Grandma's fresh bread and rhubarb jam, there was always plenty.

Grandma Donohue died Oct. 24, 1924. After that Aunt Rose and Grandpa stayed on. Even after Grandpa died Nov. 24, 1932 Aunt Rose stayed for a while on the farm with Carrie Coan who had made her home with the family for many years. Later Rose and Carrie moved to town and after Carrie died Rose lived alone until her health failed a few year ago and she was placed in a ward for seniles where she has a lovely home and is well cared for.

Aunt Lizzie married Matt Geiver and my mother, Mary, married Peter Geiver. Uncle Charles married Lulu Thorne and they live in Inglewood, Calif. Aunt Lizzie died in 1941. My mother lives in Miller in a house built for her by my youngest brother, Leonard.

The Geivers, Donohues, Burns and the other pioneer Catholics had no means of going to Mass the first years. But soon a priest came from Stephan Mission and said Mass in various homes, one of them the Hayes'. The first Duncan church was finally built. It was blown down, replaced, burned down again and again replaced by the little white church that stands there today. Many times we drove those ten miles in our top buggy and we would have to build the fire. We children got pretty cold till the church warmed up. We seemed to get there first in the summer time, too. I think Mother got there early so she could wipe the dust out of our ears (by means of a spit bath) after the 10 mile dusty ride. We always carried a jar of coffee and had sandwiches along to tide over our hunger till we got back home. Often we took extra lunch along for Grandpa Donohue after Grandma wasn't there to fix it for him.

Grandpa Donohue was 83 years old when he died and his good spirits and memory were as strong as ever. Only a few weeks before his death he had walked over to our place, a distance of seven miles. He often walked home again but in later years we would persuade him to let some of us take him home by car (he never owned one).

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Matthias and Mary Geiver came to Hand Co., Spring Lake Twp. in 1882 from Hancock, Mich. They homesteaded on the place now known as the Jake Heuther farm. There were four sons and six daughters in this family. They, too, saw many hardships. A terrible siege of diphtheria took the lives of two



of the Geiver girls at one time. They are buried in a little cemetery near Highway 45. Only one of the Geiver girls grew to maturity- Maggie, who died when only 21 years old. Later they adopted Camilla who lived with them many years. Grandpa Geiver died of a heart attack April 17, 1907. Grandma Camilla and Uncle Hughie lived on the old farm for some years.

My father, Peter Geiver, homesteaded south of his parents and Matt's homestead was east of ours. Pete married Mary Donohue and Matt married Lizzie Donohue. Uncle John moved away and married. (His wife is only Aunt Maggie to me). Later Uncle Hughie married Ethel McCarl and they moved to Wessington.

Sometime after Grandpa died, Grandma's house burned and the family moved in with my folks while a new house was built.

After Uncle Hughie married, Grandma and Camilla moved to Wessington. Later a house was moved to Uncle Matt's place and they lived there. After Camilla married Bub Winsell, Aunt Lizzie took care of Grandma till she died May 16, 1923. I can still see a picture of cousin Gertrude, (Trudie) carrying in Grandma's coal, wood and water. I can clearly see Grandma's cookie jar, always filled with gingersnaps, just for the grandchildren.

John, Peter and Matt have died but Uncle Hughie lives in Seattle.

Mother says that when she and Dad were married she had a new house and new furniture, dishes etc. Much of that furniture is in use today. She still owns our old home but my oldest brother Archie has lived on the place since Dad's death March 5, 1936. My brother owns Uncle Matt's farm and farms both places.

My Dad and his brothers walked three miles to the Winsell School. I taught school for three terms in this same building and the initials my Dad carved on the desks is still there.

Dad loved to play the fiddle and he drove many miles in his top buggy to play for house dances. Later years he passed away many a lonely hour playing the old fiddle while I chorded on the organ. Aunt Lulu Donohue chorded at many dances for him and Arlie Winegar played the fiddle too. Dad loved to dance and even after he knew his heart was bad he danced a few polkas and square dances.

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Aunt Mary and Uncle Terry Burns were residents of Plea-



sant Valley Twp. near Wall Lake. Uncle Terry was a brother of my Grandma Donohue and Aunt Mary was a sister of Grandpa Donohue. They raised a large family and went through all the hardships of my grandparents. The Burns and Donohue young folks had many good times together. They always called on Johnny Burns to take them to the parties and dances. Once the girls got mad at the boys and went down to the garden and ate onions, the boys were highly insulted.

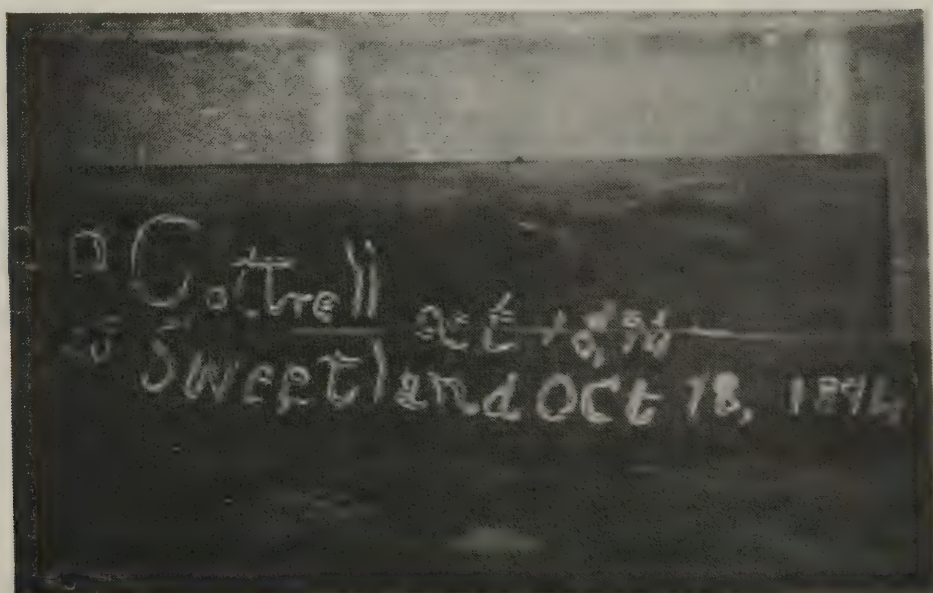
The Burns family was Maggie, Annie, Mary, John, Terrance, Jennie, Rose, Pat and Katie.

The Burns family is scattered far and wide and some have passed away. Katie and Mary live in Washington; Maggie Ross in Akron, Iowa; Terrance, Anna O'Hara and Rose Sweeney in California. The old Burns home has been torn down for many years.

Jennie Burns married Fred Stebbins and they lived in Pleasant Valley Twp. Layton Stebbins still lives on the farm they built up.

Aunt Mary Burns was such a sweet, gentle, pious old lady! Uncle Terry had the map of Ireland written all over his face. I also remember that in church at Duncan Uncle Terry sat behind us and everytime we youngsters turned around during Mass he pulled our ears and faced us in the right direction. We had GREAT RESPECT for this great uncle of ours!

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Signatures found carved on a board in the top of the Old Opera House when it was torn down. Leo Cottrell and Sweetland - October 18, 1894.



## NEWS NOTES

A few news notes taken from RETROSPECTION, a column I had in the Miller Press in 1951 taken from early issues of the Hand County Press and Pioneer Press, from 1882-'83 and 1902 and 1904.

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The first copy of the Hand County Press, the first paper printed in Hand County was sold at auction by Harvey Wood to the highest bidder, E.J. Miller for \$25 in January 1882.

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Henry Kile and brother living three and one half miles south on Turtle Creek are the first settlers here. They came to the county in June 1880 and have stayed on their claims since. Their aged mother lives with them. To their zeal in settling up the county we owe all that has been done in having the county surveyed and opened for entry.

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Feb. 1, 1882- Forty degrees above zero in the shade.

Quite a number of lovers of Terpsichore or someone else, Monday evening assembled at Youngblood's Hotel and with organ and violin music enjoyed themselves in dancing till midnight.

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From the Huronite: There is earnest talk of another newspaper in Hand Co. The Press at Miller issues 2000 copies some weeks and the Co. isn't organized.

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A number of cats consigned to Doug Miller arrived this week (March 15, 1882). At first opportunity the felines scampered away over the prairie and have not been seen since.

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The first butter made in Hand Co. was by John Morrow and sold to George Thom March 22, 1882.

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Almost every day prairie schooners arrive from the southeast.

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May- Thousands of acres of prairie in Hand County yielded to the breaking plow this spring, most of which is being planted to corn or other grain.

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June- Every train from the east is loaded with people seek-



ing homes. Land around Miller is being taken up fast and scarcely a day passes without the settlers locating.

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Only a few short months ago the wild, rolling prairie was all that could be seen. Now we see on all sides the beautiful farm houses and barns. Hand County in 1881 did not have five acres of plowed land. Today she can boast thousands of acres plowed.

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Dakota is the place for a poor man to make a fortune.

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Wheat three feet high and headed out. Also blue grass the same height.

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The Miller Public Schools opened Monday morning June 25, 1882 with Judson Chubbuck the teacher and 15-20 scholars.

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October- The Indian summer has come, the finest of the year. We are enjoying the most delightful weather known in our fair land of the Dakotas. Our balmy Indian summer with the light haze equals the skies of Italy or sunny France. If Hand County is not the banana belt, it can boast of purer air and more fertile lands than the much vaunted country.

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Nov.- Andrew Maiden brought in some extra fine samples of the leading cereals raised in Dakota. Everything he displayed was of course raised on sod. The sod was broken April 20 and the wheat seed sown the 28th. It averaged 15 bushels No. 1 hard to the acre. The oats were excellent. The corn was selected and will compare favorably with the best grown in the old corn state of Iowa. These samples were grown on County Commissioner Livingston's claim. Mr. Maiden will send them to his Iowa friends.

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A double tragedy occurred when Daniel Wolfe was found murdered near Wessington. W.R.Macomber, his supposed murderer, committed suicide.

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March 7, 1883- One of the very best cooks in this region is a young miss of only eleven summers. Her name is Ada McWhorter and the reason we make this comment is that the Press boys were treated to a midnight lunch Monday night composed of a fine hen, delicious rolls, jelly, etc.etc. all



prepared by the young lady's hands. It would make lots of old married women hustle to beat it.

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March 1902- Horace Morrow was coming to town and was a little surprised to see Tom Wade and his wife sitting in their horseless carriage in the middle of the creek southwest of town. They had started to ford the stream but the buggy stuck and the team broke loose.

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One of the inducements for investment in Hand Co. is cheap taxes. Last year's taxes on 160 acres in Alden Twp. was \$4.49.

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James Redmond had a spring bath in Wolf Creek north of town. He went up to the farm but when he came back the creek at Tom Trythall's was raging and the bridge gone. His team swam the creek with the water reaching to Redmond's waist, when he was standing up in the buggy.

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H.S. Sterling and a force of workmen are erecting the light plant. With the telephone poles on one side and electric poles along the other side, the streets of Miller begin to look like a real city.

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Dec.- Charles Carroll and Harle Bushfield came home from college in Minneapolis. Glen Waters returned from his college work in Chicago. These little incidents along the pathway of life forcibly illustrate the flight of time. It is difficult to realize that these boys have practically grown from the cradle to manhood right here. They are products of these broad prairies.

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Jan. 1904- The Collins drug store was burglarized and the clerk, Wilbur Quirk, was drugged and tied to his bed by two masked men with guns. They obtained little but skipped and left no clues.

The men said they came to get a prescription filled by Quirk who slept in the back of the store. When Quirk was slow in opening the safe one man pounded him on the head. There was no money in the safe so they made Quirk drink laudanum and held a handkerchief with ether over his face until he was unconscious. Collins found him the next morning more dead than alive and Dr. Wallis revived him.

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June- The first graduating exercises of the full high school



course were held June 3, 1904 at the Opera House under direction of the principal, G.H. Grace. Four girls, Bessie and Floy Woodruff, Alice Carroll and Anna Bushfield were in the class. The girls looked 'just as sweet as could be,' in their white dresses ornamented with flowers. School director F.E. Saltmarsh presented the diplomas and commended the girls and the teachers for the creditable work of the city schools.

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Dr. Port McWhorter just returned as a graduating physician from Chicago. He will be associated with Dr. W.H. Lane.

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Mr. and Mrs. Emmons, early day restaurant owners.



## MISCELLANEOUS



View South on Broadway

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### COUNTY HOSPITAL

In the early 1920's folks were familiar with the sight of an old army ambulance rushing up the street and stopping in front of the then postoffice (where Hy Glessner's store is located now).

Above the postoffice Drs. McWhorter and Wheelock had established a small hospital where a few patients could be cared for. Sometimes in the early morning stillness, before the sun had even hinted at rising, the roar of this ancient vehicle broke the stillness, as it made a winning race with the stork or the Grim Reaper, carrying precious burdens to the best care provided in the county.

The new Memorial Hospital here brought to realization a dream fostered by doctors, town and rural people for many years. Dr. Port McWhorter began dreaming of such a hospital early in his life.

In 1925 the hospital was moved over the Bohning Building into what was erstwhile the old Opera House and more beds and equipment were added. Later it was sold to Drs. Hagin and Gregory. Dr. J. C. Hagin came to Miller in 1926 and when Dr. Gregory left, Dr. M. W. Pangburn came in 1930.



We remember one time a fire broke out in the store below and the patients were all removed safely. The fire didn't amount to much but there was lots of excitement.

The Memorial Hospital costing \$185,000 was built and dedicated in February 1948.

One of the early doctors tells how he was called to a country home some twenty miles in the country in sub-zero weather making the trip with stone boat and team. When he arrived the farmer stuck his head out the door and hollered, "You don't need to come in, my wife's better!" The story records that the doctor went in and got warm before heading back to town.

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### COUNTY LIBRARY

In 1947 the rural folk of Hand County had access to many more books than formerly they were able to get. That year the library at Miller branched out and became a county library with stations throughout the county. In the early days of Miller a few books were placed on shelves at the C. C. Campbell Book Store and also at one time there were books to be borrowed at the bakery. Books could be kept one week for the sum of five cents. Later the library was housed over the Hand Co. Bank. "Auntie May" Redmond, sister of Jim and Will Redmond, was librarian for thirty-five years. The Miller Library had its home for many years over the Fire Hall and developed into the Hand County Library. Mrs. W. J. Halbower, Jake Cole and Mrs. John McCullen served on the board when it was situated over the bank.

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### COURTHOUSE

A building put up by J. C. Yetzer and A. D. Hill in the late 1880's served as a courthouse for only a few years but it was always dubbed "The Old Courthouse" or "The Whitcomb Building," until it was razed last year.

Pioneers Yetzer and Hill owned a bank which they started with the promise that it would serve as a depository for county funds. After the courthouse was built the bank failed and the county took over the bank and the courthouse building. Later it was sold to Gil Collins, county commissioner.

When Hand County, Dakota Territory, was organized for civil government, Gov. N. G. Ordway appointed a three man board of county commissioners since Miller and St. Lawrence were vying for the county seat, and Yankton was the third





member to break the deadlock. Miller won by a majority of 38 votes. In 1889 to fulfill a promise to the voters Miller gave a block of ground and built a brick veneered, two story building and it was the courthouse until the erection of the present one in 1926.

The "Old Courthouse" served many purposes- it was used for a Baptist church, a meeting place for the Knights and Sisters of Pythias, school class rooms and apartments and later it housed a garage and repair shop and upstairs apartment. The picture shows the second courthouse.

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### CITY AUDITORIUM

City Auditorium was dedicated in 1923 and was built on the lot where Dr. S. R. Wallis formerly had his small office. The Wallis' house was on the east side of the lot.

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### REBEKAHS - ODD FELLOWS

Hebron Rebekah Lodge No. 18 was instituted in Miller April 1893 with Mrs. P. E. Walton of Huron, Assembly President of the Order. Elective officers were Noble Grand, Nathan Johnson; Vice Grand, Lizzie Hill; Secretary, Carrie Fitzgerald; Treasurer, Lizzie Johnson.

The lodge hall burned January 28, 1926 destroying all belongings but the charter which has been duplicated. It contains these names: Carrie E. Fitzgerald, Maggie C. Johnson, Lizzie W. Hill, Minnie Munger, Alice E. Pauly, Myrtle All-



bee, Helen M. Morrell, Anna L. Berdan, Gertrude S. Briggs, Emily Herschelman, Alice Hardwich, Anna C. Miller, Carrie E. Olson, Nathan Johnson, J. D. Fitzgerald, Herbert C. Burch, John Pusey, J. V. Munger.

The original charter for Ree Valley Odd Fellow Lodge was signed by Harvey Rice DDGM February 7, 1884. It contained these names of charter members: B. O. Anderson, Wm. R. Smith, Wm. H. Miller, Jacob Furman, F. R. Van Dusen, James H. Shane, James D. Fitzgerald; Lorenzo D. Sweetland, A. P. Robertson, M. B. Lester, Horace M. Macey, John F. Wilson, Stephen Pauly, James F. Martin, W. C. Richard, J. M. Gass.

The charter was also signed by F. B. Raymond, Grand Secretary and Wm. Bernhardt, G. M.

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### EASTERN STAR

Crescent Chapter OES - On Thursday evening March 22, 1888 a small group of people met in the Masonic Hall at St. Lawrence for the purpose of organizing of the Eastern Star chapter.

The charter was received July 10, 1889.

Charter members were: Susan Wood, Emeret Sedam, Mary Chaney, Nellie Barrow, Estella Baldwin, Oda Baskan, Nellie Dolen, Maria Bensen, Martha Edwards, Ann Cuthbertson, Florence Mudgett:- Brothers Horace Wood, John H. Baldwin, William G. Edwards and others. Worthy Patron was R. T. Sedam.

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### MASONS

Mason's Charter. "Know ye! That we upon petition of our true and well beloved brethren Robert T. Sedam, W. A. Edwards with several other well beloved brethren residing in the town of St. Lawrence and its vicinity within the Territory of Dakota do by virtue of these present constitute the brethren aforesaid a regular lodge of ancient Free and accepted Masons to be opened at the town of St. Lawrence in the county of Hand, territory of Dakota by the name of St. Lawrence Lodge No. 39. Given at Rapid City in said territory of Dakota under our hand and seal of said Grand Lodge this 15th day of June A. D. 1883."

Later both lodges were moved to Miller about 1900.

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### ROYAL NEIGHBORS

Royal Neighbors Loyalty Camp No. 8491 was instituted June 14, 1918 by District Deputy Nellie Comore, Charter



members were Marie Bailey, Agnes E. Battersby, Bonnie W. Bohning, Alvira Butler, Hannah L. Campbell, Eliza Corrin, Gertie Corrin, Margaret Cree, Alta L. Dale, Myrtle Dornberger, Laura Mae Douglass, Ruth Douglass, Clara Maude Fisher, Louise Frahm, Carrie Geist, Jessie Halbig, Mamie Halbig, Alma Heltbridle, Lillian Hewett, Edith B. Hull, Cora Cane, Nellie Leavens, Bernice Lewis, Mae Mathews, Laura Moncur, Mabell Reesor, Mable Glenn Richardson, Nellie C. Runger, Calla Scofield, Pauline Sessions, May S. Snoddy, Effie Stanley, Ethel Stanley, Martha Tamblyn, Grace Trotman, Alice Ulrich, Mae Walsh, LaVerna Wilson, The Supreme Oracle was Alice Gilliland and Supreme Recorder Erna Barthel.

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June, 1955 saw the formation of a Golden Years Club by Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Crossman, and it is surprising to note that in the county there are over 26 couples who have been married 50 years or more. The club plans to meet every summer.

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The Pioneer Club was begun through the efforts of Lee Campbell and the Civic and Commerce Association in June 1954. The aim of the project is to have the older folk meet once a year and get acquainted. Anyone interested in the beginning and progress of the town is invited to attend these meetings.

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The South Hand- North Buffalo picnic is observed every year in South Hand County at the Vis grove. No one knows exactly when this observance was begun but in 1904 a committee met at Pleasant Valley Hall to make plans for the picnic in August. Mrs. Will Wade remembers how Mrs. O.C. Knox had a pony flag drill at one of the picnics and there was also a merry-go-round.

The North Hand Old Settlers picnic was held once a year for many years but finally was discontinued. It is thought that the North Hand observance began before the South Hand picnic.

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### Woman's Club Organized Over 60 Years Ago

There is a bit of interesting history connected with the Woman's Club of Miller. It was organized in 1891 and the first officers were elected then when they met as the Reading Club in the homes of the members. In 1894 it was reorganized into the Ladies' Reading Circle. Officers were elected every two years for the first four years. In 1899, at the annual election,



a reception was held for the husbands. Music and recreation were part of the program and the group took their studies seriously.

Mrs. Marian Lane, wife of pioneer Dr. Lane, was one of the early organizers and did much to keep the club alive.

In 1899 George H. Carroll sponsored their work toward a public library.

In 1900 the Helen Hunt Jackson Club, the Reading Club, joined the State Federation and sent a delegate to Aberdeen. Mrs. E. H. Wilson, one of the oldest members, joined the club that year. At first the membership was limited because of meeting in the homes.

In 1902 the group began a study course about England, Ireland and Scotland, with examinations given and diplomas received. A critic sat at each meeting to note mispronounced words, grammatical errors, etc.

In 1903 Mrs. G. H. Carroll wrote an outstanding paper which she read. In 1904 Mrs. John Coquillet was chosen vice president of the State Federation and in 1906 the club brought the first lecture course to town.

During World War I the club met only for Red Cross Work. Another club, the 20th Century Club was organized and later the two joined to form the Woman's Club of today. Woman's suffrage was a sponsored project as well as helping to build the city auditorium. Many current subjects have been sponsored by the club, the NRA, cheer baskets, tea for teachers, guest days, safe driving, bicycle safety program and many others. In 1936 they became a member of General Federation.

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BUSINESS DIRECTORY - Leading Firms of Miller, S. D.

Published by J. N. Templeman, Photographer

Loen, the leading grocer.

J. W. Coquillet, proprietor of the leading dry goods house.

B. F. Stam, undertaker, furniture dealer and manufacturing agent for The Andrews.

A. J. Kuenster, exclusive dealer in boots and shoes, most complete stock in the territory.

Artesian Drug Store, Dr. L. Pyle, Prop. Also manufacturer and proprietor of Pyle's specifics. Dealer in paints, oils, varnishes, etc.

Hand Co. Bank, Yetzer and Hill, general banking business.

S. M. Hazen, dealer in general merchandise, dry goods, clothing, hats and caps, boots and shoes, groceries.



Moffatt and Beasom, hardware, stoves, implements.  
 Childs and Young, largest and longest established dry goods firm of Miller.  
 W.H.Davis and Co., staple and fancy groceries.  
 Iowa Dining Hall, C.C.Churchill, proprietor.  
 G.H.Carroll, land and farm loans.  
 J.P.Cutting, drugs and wall paper, 1882-1887.  
 J.D.Fitzgerald, druggist.  
 O.A.Smith, general merchandise, grain and coal.  
 G.O.Galby, dealer in general merchandise.  
 Vanderbilt Hotel, first class in all its appointments. Good sample room for commercial men, D.W.Knappen, prop.  
 Winona Lumber Co., dealers in lumber, lath, shingles, sash, doors and building material.  
 H.B.Hudson, real estate and loans.  
 G.C.Briggs, H.C.Chapin, attorneys at law, real estate and loans, collections a specialty. Office opposite Vanderbilt Hotel.  
 Miller Bros., general merchandise props. Miller townsite.  
 W.H.Lane, M.D. physician and surgeon. Office, first door west of Hand Co. Bank.  
 Moon and Pusey, J.A.Moon, John Pusey, attorneys at law, and mortgage negotiators. Special attention to Commercial and Real Estate Law.

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Roll's New Opera House will seat 500. Stage 24 x 40. Eight sets scenery and drop. Dressing, cloak and smoking rooms; balcony, three exit stairways. Best arranged house in Central Dakota. J.L.Roll, manager and proprietor.

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Telephones. Early telephones came into use when the toll line was built from Huron in 1898 and by 1905 there were 83 subscribers. In 1905 the company was incorporated by E. F. Waite, W.J.Halbower and G.E.Richardson. By 1907 the Hand County Telephone Company owned about 230 miles of rural line and a franchise in Miller with 18 years to renew. In 1907 the Dakota Central bought the rest and completely rebuilt, and this was called the Miller-St. Lawrence exchange. All subscribers were on the first line (quite a party line)! Ote Collins was the switchboard operator in Miller for the exchange.

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## CHURCHES

Through the efforts of Rev. A. F. Thompson of Huron, in



the fall of 1882 the first Methodist work was begun here, with the organization of a Sunday School. The Rev. Bradford came later and had the foundation of the church building enlarged. The actual building was begun under the Rev. A. S. Leavell in 1884 and was continued under Rev. Bradford; it was finished in 1888 under the Rev. Turner, First Methodist Church was dedicated in January 1888.

Albert O. Schweppe, long time officer of this church reports that in 1916, back in the horse and buggy days, there were 12-14 hitching posts at the church. Mr. Brenner was janitor and he had to carry hods and hods of coal. There were two stoves to keep going with a hole under the church 20x20 containing the stoves.

Pastors who have served here are the Rev. John Kearton, who left in 1916, to be followed by the Revs. Tarleton, McLain, Gardner, Sheldon. In 1929 the enlargement of the church was begun. A gift from Miss Teller in 1925 made remodeling work possible. The basement was made and other improvements added. Next came the Pastors Cooney, Hart and Whitney. During these years came the enlargement of the basement and adding of the kitchen, redecoration of the church, adding the big window and the oil furnace. Next came Pastors Ernst, Laxamana, Parvin and under Rev. Dwayne F. Knight Asbury Hall was built and paid for by 1954, new pews added and balconies put in the church. Rev. Cecil F. Miller followed Knight in 1955.

First Presbyterian Church was begun 75 years ago when the town of Miller was in its infancy. The first service was conducted by the Rev. Pomeroy of Huron in early winter 1882 and a Sunday School was organized by the Rev. J. Kimball of the American Sunday School Union. In May, 1882 the Rev. A. S. Foster arrived from Sac City, Iowa to locate here permanently. He took charge of the missionary work in Hand County under auspices of the Presbyterian Home Mission.

The first church was organized by the Rev. W. S. Peterson June 25, 1882, a missionary for Dakota Territory. Charter members of the church were William McMurray, G. A. Gray, Harvey A. Dean, Mrs. Catherine Dean, Mrs. Ella Gardner, and Mrs. Maggie R. Foster.

In October 1882 plans were made for a church building with an anteroom over which a steeple and belfry were to be placed. Lumber arrived the following May and work was begun. The



building was dedicated July 8, 1883.

During the pastorate of the Rev. Joseph Andrews a second church building was built on the site of the old one and dedicated July 15, 1930.

L. Hume Ward is the present pastor having come in 1950 to succeed Rev. Andrews who served the parish for twenty-two years.

(This data from Mrs. Anna Sessions' History of Hand County)

Members of the Catholic church held services first in the old courthouse on Second Street in 1884. Fr. A. J. Bunning was the first priest here. Fr. Robert W. Haire and Fr. Theo A. Majerus came at intervals, two Benedictine Fathers from Stephan Mission; Fr. Pius Boehm and Fr. Ambrose Matting came from Stephan also.

Early in 1884 Henry Miller donated land about a mile south of town and the church was built there and finished July 31, 1884. Later J. J. Smith donated two lots in 1896 two blocks east of Main Street and the church was moved there.

Mrs. Nellie Redmond remembers that lumber left over from building their home was used to build the floor in the belfry.

Ed Dunn and Dan Walsh donated land for St. Ann's Cemetery northeast of town which is the present cemetery.

Fr. Schilling served here many years and was succeeded by Fr. Hyland and Fr. Richard Gorman.

The new church near the cemetery is at this writing nearing completion at a cost of about \$200,000.

The Christian church had for their pastor the Rev. Elliot. Tent services were held as a beginning. There was also a Baptist church and the Evangelical church was located south of the track. Today the two stone steps that led to its entrance are still standing. The church was moved to Glendale Twp. many years ago and one Easter morning just before a program was scheduled to be held there it burned to the ground.

Trinity Lutheran Church and the other denominations have built churches here and service active congregations.

Many rural churches serve country congregations.

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## INTERVIEW STORIES



The Old Opera House  
(later the Bohning Building. At one time hospital (upstairs)).

Opera House- from the Miller Press, by Myrna Cotton.

How many Miller residents remember the New Year balls at the Old Opera House? The political rallies, one time when Carrie Nation was speaker, the special entertainments, the church suppers, the Lyceum courses held there?

Newcomers to the town have missed out on these wonderful times remembered by those who lived here before and slightly after the early 1900's.

The Bohning building sold recently to Garth Zeigler and which will soon be torn down, has been in the history of the town of Miller since October 18, 1886 when a fellow townsman and banker, and owner of the local skating rink, J. Linn Roll, began this building. It was to be on the corner of Broadway and Third Streets. The October 28, 1886 issue of the Miller Press states that "the new opera house is now an assumed fact." In speaking of Mr. Roll's project "It takes a good deal of sand to embark on such a scheme but it is nerve that wins and we hope Roll will finish his new enterprise, a bonanza."



A later issue states that "a ball in the lower rooms was well attended and was the pleasantest event of the season."

Mrs. James Redmond, a pioneer resident, recalls how the women wore their ball gowns and the men their Tuxedos for the many balls held there. She also tells of the church suppers when the women asked William Waters, then owner, if they could use the lower room for a church supper. He replied, "certainly if they'd clean out the corn stored there." The women went to work with a will and soon had all the corn and mice shoveled into one corner. They borrowed planks and saw horses from the local lumberyard for tables. The stores gladly loaned them dishes for they got them all washed up this way. The day after the supper they had to undo all the work by returning what they had borrowed. They had to carry water too, for use in putting on the affair.

"It was fun, though," reminisced Mrs. Redmond.

Dollie Bushfield remembers the political rallies and special programs, "What fun we had," she remarked.

Mrs. Lee Campbell, then a Ree Heights girl, was thrilled, so she remembered, at being invited to the ball.

In our time we can remember how we enjoyed the Lyceum course entertainments. Those who had season tickets joined the mob in front and inside of Collins Drug store when seat tickets were drawn. "Kids" from the youth groups of the churches sold home made candy for the benefit of the various Ladies Aids before the shows.

Mr. Roll began the building that fall of 1886 and was well started when a blockade caused by lack of cars on the C&NW Railway halted the work. In January the stucco arrived and the lumber in mid-winter. Contractor Fearherlye had 21 men working on the high roof in the extreme cold.

It was a large building 20 feet high and 50x70 feet. The balcony seated 200 people and below this 300 could be seated.

The east end was the stage 25x40 feet. Stage effects consisted of eight full scenes and two set scenes with furniture, carpeting, etc. with about 40 pieces for the stage. The scenery was painted by L. L. Graham of Kansas City.

The stage effects cost about \$350. The foot lights were operated from behind the scenes and were kerosene lamps in the beginning and later electric lights.

The \$50 chandelier was pendant from the middle of the ceiling of the Opera room and was made up of rows of kerosene lamps. To light the lamps a chain lowered the big fixture to



the floor where Robert Corrin, janitor, lighted them. Then it was "hailed" up. Just before the show started it was lowered and the lamps put out to be again lighted after the performance.

Woodwork in this opera room was cherry and walnut. The south side was the cloak room, ticket office and dressing rooms. There were four exits from the main room, one from the balcony and one from the stage leading to three "tight" stairways to the ground.

The building was made with a special view to strength from the basement to the top. The roof was supported by four large trusses from which the balcony was suspended by iron rods. The whole cost was estimated at \$6000.

"The Rolls Opera house," states another issue of the Press, "opened with Canby Post G.A.R. presenting a drama "A Vet of 1812" with John Pusey playing the part of the villain. The entertainment was managed by Harry Sheilds and proceeds went to the Post. Others who took part were W.H. Kephart, C.E. Smith, John Costain, J.W. Coquillette, H.R. Cashmere, J. H. Cole, Harry Woodhull, Eugene Ingaham, J. E. Dowell, George Brown, Mrs. Alice Hubbock, Mrs. J.M. Templeman, Mrs. O.H. Pruner, Miss Mattie Collins and others in minor roles.

Other excerpts from the Press: "The first entertainment should be for the benefit of the proprietor," "A grand masked ball will be held in the future."

After Roll, Waters and his son Glen owned the building. It was sold to the Bohning Brothers, Al and Ed when they moved here in February from Iowa in 1910. The lower part of the building had been used for grocery stores for many years. Clint and Charles Crabtree used to have a store there, later the Bohnings, Tom Haugen and the Melhoff's.

The idea for the birth of City Auditorium came one evening during a play in the Opera House. It was a Japanese play and incense was burned. People almost panicked when they thought the place was afire. After the Auditorium was built and dedicated December 13, 1923, the upper floors were made into a hospital with Dr. Port McWhorter as head. When Memorial Hospital was dedicated February 13, 1948 the old hospital was made into living apartments.

When Bohning brothers dissolved partnership Al became owner of the building. Nineteen fifty four will mark the passing of an old, old landmark when this building is torn down



and a new one replaces it, for it has stood there since the town was only five years old.

Thora Quayle, cousin of Mrs. Eliza Leckner and a former resident, wrote this concerning the tearing down of the Old Opera House: 'The old building had a lot of happy memories for many of the early settlers. What a pity that such an important landmark had to be demolished-- since it played such an important part in the activities of the town all those years-- a building as old as the town itself-- and, you might say, has been the "heart-beat" of the town. Probably few tears were shed when it was torn down except by the few who have some happy memories of it as I have. Miller, to me, will seem very strange without it. I wonder who is left of those early days who remembers the day when the building was once a thing of pride and joy to the Miller "natives." In some ways its destruction is pathetic. like the passing of an old friend. But in another twenty-five years who will be left to tell of those early days, even our generation will be scarce by then. I hope the new service station will be one that improves and beautifies the corner.

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## LAKE LOUISE

From the Miller Press, by Myrna Cotton

Hand County Lake Favorite Fishing and Picknicking Spot -

Lake Louise situated 14 miles northwest of Miller on Big Wolf Creek is a State Recreation Area and Game Refuge. Dr. E.H. Wilson who lived on a homestead on the lake site when a boy, conceived the idea of making the lake and was instrumental in getting the project started.

Ernest G. Hatch, supervisor of the area, has given us an interesting resume of the work done there.

Hand County began the work in 1931 and in 1932 the Game and Fish Department of South Dakota built the dam. In 1935 and 1936 the W.P.A. planted trees and shrubs around the lake.

Lake Louise was dedicated in 1937.

Mr. Hatch informs us that the water backs up behind the dam for a mile and a half. Places in the lake are about a half mile in width. The dam is about 35 feet high and the old creek bed winds through the lake and is quite deep through its course.

The State Game and Fish Department planted Bass, Bluegills, Crappies, and Bullheads in it and fishing has been good most every year since.

Hand County maintained the lake for several years and in



1945 turned it over to the state. The State Game and Fish Department started developing it as a wild life Preserve and Recreation area. They broke the ground and planted trees on new areas, cleaned up the picnic spots, built four fireplaces and made other improvements.

Bass have been caught in this lake weighing up to seven and one quarter pounds. The past few years deer have been staying around the lake. The grove at the west part of the lake is a haven for birds. Many kinds are found there.

In the fall ducks congregate in great numbers on the lake.

The lake is used more and more each year for fishing and picnicking by people in this and adjoining counties. Fishermen come from all over the state. A survey showed that 35,000 people visited the area in four months.

The road has been graveled from the highway to the lake and west to the Ree Heights road, making it accessible during rainy weather.

Mr. Hatch further added: "During the summer months tourists have been at the lake from many states and Alaska. They often camp overnight and compliment us on the nice recreation area."

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### KELLY

From the Dakota Farmer, by Myrna Cotton

We've all heard pioneer stories. Most of us, when we think of early Dakota history, recall the tales of hardships. But there was a lighter side as well to pioneer life.

"The early settlers worked hard, but they enjoyed themselves, too," says Thomas Kelly, one of the pioneers who helped blaze the way for the settling of the Dakotas.

"Every Friday night," reminisced Mr. Kelly, "we went someplace. There were literaries, box socials, rollerskating in St. Lawrence, and square dances in the homes. Every granary that was built had a dance in it the first thing."

Mr. Kelly, who was 95 Nov. 28, came to Hand County from Rochelle, Ill. in April 1882. The youngest member of his family, he was 22 when he sold his farm in Illinois and came along with two immigrant cars to Dakota.

After four months in the territory, he returned to Illinois to marry his sweetheart and bring her to Dakota.

The pioneers brought some livestock in each immigrant car in order to get a cheaper railroad rate. Mr. Kelly recalls there were eight head of horses, a breaking plow, a cow and a calf



in the immigrant car in which he came.

The new territory was fenceless. As far as the eye could see stretched the grass-covered prairie. The land hadn't been surveyed, but Mr. Kelly and his brother John, got lumber for two claim shanties, each 12x16 feet. They built homes across the road from each other. John sent back East and got trees which they planted around their homesteads in their spare time after they had finished breaking the land.

After the land had been surveyed, it developed that the brothers had their building on each side of the creek in the right place. There was lots of rain that first year and the sod produced a good crop of oats.

That fall the country to the north began filling up with homes of other settlers.

The Kellys had their share of the grasshoppers, prairie fires and blizzards which plagued the early settlers. The brother's place was burned in the prairie fire of 1895.

Mr. Kelly recalls when he was lost in a blizzard. He decided to sit down and figure out where he was. It worked, he finally found his way home.

Another time he was driving home from St. Lawrence on a dark night with a load of lumber. He decided to let the team pick out the road, and they went into the creek, tipped the load into the mud, and couldn't get out. Mr. Kelly was pinned under the wagon.

Luckily, he had a good pair of lungs. His yells brought neighbors with a lantern. When they saw his predicament, they took a plank, pried the wagon up and released him. He was taken to town for treatment. His ankle was sprained in the accident.

Mr. Kelly has seen more than 70 Dakota crops harvested. In World War I he and his daughter, Ethel, cared for 55 head of cattle without outside help.

He is still active, mows his own lawn in summer, and supervises the work on the farm where he lives with his two daughters, Lucille and Ethel. His family says that when their home burned in 1926, he was the calmest of them all.

The family still relies on his judgment, reporting that he weighs everything first before giving an answer. His first experience in a hospital was in 1953, when, at the age of 94, he had a cataract removed from one eye.

In addition to the two daughters at home, he has seven other daughters and three sons. They are; Mrs. Margaret Myers, Codington County; Mrs. Carl Douglass, Hughes County; Mrs.



M.P. Blindauer, Minnehaha County; Mrs. Lewis Gillispie, Tracy, Minn.; Mrs. Clifford Kenyon, Hyde County; Mrs. Donald V. Duncan, Sioux City, Ia.; Mrs. Albert Olson, Hand Co.; Frank, Helena, Mont.; James, Hughes Co.; and Charles, Los Angeles.

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S.D. Couple Finds Security, Happiness in Chicken Flocks -

Courtesy The Daily Argus Leader, by Myrna Cotton

The C and B (Crossman and Boyd) broiler farm is located just west of the city limits of St. Lawrence, holds a number of buildings and bustling activity and notes that here someone is in the chicken business. Especially in summertime there are thousands of chickens ranging in the field around the range shelters.

Behind the broiler farm story is the story of a man and woman who, because of their efforts in hatching and raising chickens over a period of 50 years, have made their broiler farm and a hatchery in nearby Miller, possible.

This is the story of Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Crossman, Arbie and Mable, both active and energetic and who will each be 78 years old next June.

Arbie taught school at Bonilla, and there became interested in watching chickens being hatched by incubator at a friend's home.

He and Mrs. Crossman were married in 1900 and in 1902 they moved to Hendricks, Minn., then a new town, and in 1905 Arbie began to realize a dream--he bought 12 hens and a rooster. Later that summer he bought a 110 egg incubator. There the broiler farm and hatchery had their origin. It was a dream with a humble beginning.

When Arbie brought home the incubator he remarked to Mable; "Now see if you are afraid of this like you are of a setting hen!"

From the first setting in the incubator 85 chicks were hatched. There was no commercial chick starter on the market, in fact, there wasn't even any chicken feed.

"Don't call that stuff chicken feed," Arbie almost snorted, "that stuff they sold for feed was weed seed and corn that got mouldy. No wonder they couldn't raise chickens in those days. They just didn't know how to feed them!"

Mable cooked a triple batch of oatmeal, using part for the family breakfast and part for the chickens. Her cornbread, too, came out of the oven in big batches so the chickens could have part of it. They got all the scraps from the table too.



Later when Arbie and Mable were living south of Wessington in 1908, and Mable was busy caring for three small sons and cooking for five men she remembered that when her mother wanted anything she just got busy and earned it.

"Now what could I do to earn money in the country?" she pondered.

One day she heard some friends talking on the telephone and one of them wondered where she could buy some baby chicks. "Ha," thought Mable, "Here's my chance." She excitedly told the woman, "I'll sell you some chicks for five cents apiece!" She sold her 300.

This was the result from three incubators holding 110 eggs apiece that were hatching and she had no time to care for the chicks. Thus her first business venture began.

As far as is known the Crossmans were the first to ship baby chicks for any distance although a man in Ohio had shipped some 30 miles.

It just can't be done, they told the Crossmans.

A cousin of Mrs. Crossman, a Mrs. Morrison of Miller, was moving to Nisland, to a claim in 1910 and wanted 100 chicks. They were to go to Deadwood where she would pick them up. Leaving Wessington June 10, 1910 by Chicago and Northwestern Railroad they arrived in Deadwood the next afternoon. Mrs. Morrison was to take them with her on the stage to her home 35 miles away. When she called for the chicks they made fun of her saying, "They don't ship chicks." Finally they found them with other express packages. Mrs. Morrison arrived at her claim shanty with the chicks all safe and sound.

In 1911 they shipped 900 chicks in small bunches with little loss. They sold many chicks around their own neighborhood. They made their own chick boxes until 1933 when they bought their first cartons.

Until 1932 the business was carried on at the farm south of Wessington with 12 kerosene lamp incubators. In 1933 they bought a coal burner holding 11,000 eggs and it was used on the farm till they moved it to Miller in 1935. The year they bought that incubator they turned out 35,000 chicks.

After moving to Miller in 1935 and starting the Crossman Hatchery they had two big incubators holding 30,000 eggs. Later they bought other incubators and in 1940 they bought a Bundy holding 28,000 eggs.

Now at the hatchery they have an egg capacity of 72,000



all electric equipment and hatch chicks, selling 150,000 and keeping 50,000 for the broiler farm.

The Crossmans are interested in both the hatchery and the broiler farm in partnership with their son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Lee Crossman. Lee is also mayor of Miller.

Crossmans have always been active in community affairs both in their Wessington community and at Miller. They have both had 4-H clubs and Mable is a member of the Happy Hustler extension club.

When asked about the economic situation Arbie said. "There are, of course, too many hens, too many eggs, too many broilers. But in time this situation will right itself. Loose finance has helped the broiler business in going to pot (not literally), but this will eventually take care of itself." He explained that loose finance means that many chicken men have been getting feed to raise their birds on account and pay for it when the birds are sold, and like other prices can go below the cost of production and both the poultry men and the feed men lose.

The broiler farm, and hatchery work as it were, "hand in hand." The chicks for the farm are hatched at the hatchery from eggs laid at the farm.

Elmer Boyd, manager for the past five years, and his helper gather the eggs three times a day and they are taken to the hatchery where they are sorted into the trays for the incubators, putting the ones not suitable into egg cases and selling them to a local produce station.

At the farm there are 11 pullet range shelters where the pullets live in spring and summer. The three broiler houses, warmed by coal stokers in winter, are 30 x 120 feet and feed rooms 20 x 30 feet. Each house accommodates 5,500 broilers, some of which are sold at six weeks of age.

The two laying houses have about 1,000 hens each and there are 685 hens housed upstairs in one of the broiler houses. These hens laid 550 eggs one day.

From the most recent hatch at the hatchery 5,700 broilers were to be put in the houses and 600 were shipped to a farmer at Wessington.

The life that goes on inside the chicken houses is interesting and fascinating, especially to anyone who likes chickens.

The roosters and the hens spend their days scratching in the shavings or ground corn cob litter, eating from the feeders, filled from a platform on a feed track carrying six or eight pails of feed at one time in each house. The waterers



are automatic cups that fill from the St. Lawrence water system. Litter is changed for each brood but the litter for the hens stays in a year with additional added as needed. Dropping pits are cleaned once or twice a year when necessary.

Some broilers are dressed at the hatchery for special orders. From a dozen hens and one rooster has come the production of thousands of broilers, chickens for the whole country-side and many eggs. There are farm owners of flocks who sell their hatching eggs to Crossman Hatchery too.

So it's been Arbie and Mable, their family and their help and their chickens. 'But much of the success of the last 10 years has been due to the efforts put forth by Lee and Mildred Crossman and Elmer Boyd.' said Mable Crossman.

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### WESTMIRE

Courtesy The Sioux City Journal, by Myrna Cotton

The strains of Irish Washerwoman, Arkansas Traveler, Rosin the Bow, Leather Britches and a host of others float from the strings of J.E. Westmire's aged violin as he plays for his own enjoyment and to help pass the time that seems long to the veteran mail carrier.

"Eck" as he is familiarly called, will be 88 years old next February, but he handles the bow of his violin as efficiently as he did when he and his wife Mathilda played for dances some 60 years ago. Mrs. Westmire accompanied her husband on the guitar.

"Eck" came here from Indiana in 1884 and settled in Bates Township. Later he lived on his farm in Spring Lake Township south of town. He informed us that the buffalo grass was wonderful for grazing. He remembers vividly how he twisted hay for fuel, hunted prairie chickens, took wheat to the mill in town and had it ground into flour.

Westmire recalls that in 1888 William Crecelius had the Spring Lake Star newspaper at the Dean postoffice where Westmire, as mail carrier out of Miller, used to stop. At Waterbury, an inland town there was a general store, hotel and headquarters for mail carriers who carried the mail with horses and sleds in winter.

The blizzard of 1888 found Westmire a few miles past the Dean postoffice on his return trip. On the way to Miller, about two miles ahead, there was a rise in the ground and he couldn't see over it. The weather was mild and he rode with his coat unbuttoned and his feet on the dashboard. Coming over the rise



the blizzard struck him suddenly. He couldn't see so he gave the horses the reins. They circled around and came back to the road that was graded and packed with snow. The high wind blew the team off the road twice. They went through a big draw which luckily held up under them. Finally they came out in a flax field and Eck knew that he'd eventually come to the fence which he could follow. Finally he got back to Dean.

He also told us of the experience of a friend, Charles Gingery, who carried mail from Waterbury to Kimball. Gingery was out in the blizzard of 1888 and had a woman passenger riding on the little sled covered with a temporary canvas top.

About half way to Kimball the storm caught him and the horses went down and broke loose. He lost his cap and mittens and the top was blown from the sled. He did his best to protect his passenger but his hands were frozen and later he lost a hand, three fingers on the other hand and a foot. One ear lobe was frozen off. His passenger died later from shock and exposure. Gingery crawled on hands and knees to a nearby farmhouse.

Westmire was at one time a blacksmith at Mitchell. He married in Minnesota and he and his wife bought and improved a farm northwest of Miller where they lived for many years. Later they retired and moved into town.

So the days pass pleasantly for Eck with occasional trips downtown and he muses on the pioneering he did in Dakota territory as he plays the old tunes softly on his violin.

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### An Informal Report of An Ephemeral War By Charles Whiting Gardner

The incidents narrated in the following bit of folklore took place in Hand County, South Dakota. They were the outgrowth of the almost forgotten "Indian Scare" set off by the ideologically curious Ghost Dances during the Messiah War. Many people over the state at that time were apprehensive. Those living near Indian Reservations, such as the homesteaders in southwestern Hand County, were particularly touchy.

It is easy for the present generation, since Indian wars are far in the past, to underestimate the potency of stories of Indian depredation before 1890 when the wildest most implausible rumors always found some takers. Means of communication were poor, or didn't exist. Word-of-mouth had to be accepted. Naturally, under such circumstances, the rumor crop was the most luxuriant growth on the prairies.



Because sporadic appeals for protection had met with nothing but official silence, except for the distribution of some obsolete Civil War muskets a number of communities had organized Militia on their own initiative. The argument ran something like this: "Let the Army of The West go hang! If it hasn't the gumption to protect American citizens living in the very shadow of Government property, it can't kick if we protect ourselves." One such development, was Company-A of the Cedar Township Militia.

Really, that institution had no such name. It has been supplied for the purpose of locating it and because in the strict sense of the word it was Militia. The idea was promoted by Mr. Winfield Scott Bell, "General" by courtesy, who was its commanding and only officer. As a Civil War veteran and one of the few men in the area with any military experience, "General" Bell had felt it his patriotic duty to bring together and to train a body of men for the defence of the commonwealth. Not all were agreed on the necessity of the Bell plan, but some twenty men responded to the call.

On a day at the very peak of the excitement, Company-A of the Cedar Township Militia had met and had been going through its third rehearsal. To its commanding officer the affair had become an exasperating and hopeless debacle and he had felt obliged to call out from the ranks two or three of his more dependable men for an informal conference.

Such delightful informality in this Company was nothing unusual, everything about Company-A was informal; its inception, its attire, its armament, its behavior as a unit, and especially the deportment of the individual members, even its ENEMY! Surely, no one acts with less formality than ghost-shirted Sioux braves on the warpath.

It was this same distressing informality of the part of his command that had irked the peppery five-foot-three "General" above all else. The Company had shown no interest in the military sciences as set forth under the Bell system. It appeared callous to the gravity of the situation and totally disinclined to take its training seriously. Such jaunty remarks as: "If there's goin' to be any Ghost Dancing in this county, we'll do it!" and: "We're ready to fight any time, bring on your Indians!" had sent tremors of alarm down the spine of the unhumorous little "General".

And now, while he stood there on the parade ground conferring with his leaders he sustained a still greater shock.



These men informed him that the Company had decided that it needed no more training. It was ready for business. "What!" exclaimed the irate officer, "Does this outfit think it can fight after just three lessons? Ridiculous! This Company doesn't even know the Manual of Arms!" He was recalling something--the Company's first session of drill. He had ordered it to "Present Arms," and the whole Company had tossed its ancient Springfields into a convenient wagon-box and had gone in to dinner. He grew red as he remembered that its fuming commander had brought up the rear. It had seemed better that a General have some kind of Army even though it leads HIM, than to have no Army at all.

His conferees, however, were not finished with bad news. Worse was yet to come. He learned with apoplectic consternation that his bumptious Company, had taken upon itself for decision, a matter of pure campaign strategy. One party, headed by Alf Crackel inclined toward defensive tactics only-- "Pick your own battle-ground and then make the enemy come to you." The other, led by Jim Hocking and George Price loudly advocated a bold offensive-- "while this Company is all here together, before the boys blow all their ammunition shooting coyotes." They proposed nothing less than an invasion of the Reservation forthwith.

It was a tight spot for the "General," but his advisors recommended that the men be polled on this question of strategy without any delay, so reluctantly he formed the men into a long most unmilitary appearing line and a vote was taken.

The party of aggression, the fire-eaters who proposed to issue forth that very day to chase Indians on their own Reservation, was found to have a big majority and a hearty cheer went up. The echoes of this cheer still lingered when a shot was heard quite near at hand. The sound seemed to come from behind a small hill to the west of the parade ground.

That single shot was followed by another, then by another and another, then by several almost together, and finally-- by a whole fusillade!

THE INDIANS!

"General" Bell acted quickly. He ran, as fast as any short middle-aged man impeded by whiskers could run, to the top of the little hill--be it said to his lasting credit--IN the direction from which the uproar of battle had come.

Minutes later he reappeared. When he came down again to the parade ground he realized, with highly mixed emotions,



that his whole Army had simply--exploded! Men on horseback galloping, in wagons bumping, in buggies careening, all lashing frantic animals for more speed, were scurrying across unfenced prairie in every direction EXCEPT in the direction of the shooting. "General" Bell's shouted orders went unheeded. Two more minutes and every one of them was out of sight. An Army-less General held the field of battle and he held it alone.

Next day these highly mobile fighting men explained to each other and to such skeptical and somewhat amused individuals as would listen, all about the Indian attack. They dwelt at some length on how, when the bullets of the Indians screamed over their heads, their one thought had been for their defenseless homes which must be protected at all cost. To this noble and impelling motive they had reacted as one man. Each told how he had stood sentinel over his home throughout the ensuing night, until a merciful dawn revealed an entirely Indian-less prospect. Their stories, when analyzed were found to be a bit lame in that they failed of reconciliation with two apparent facts; first, that a goodly number of these gentlemen had raced away from their homes instead of toward them, and second, that no Indians had been seen or heard by anybody else. Moreover when during succeeding days no reports of murder and arson or of milder atrocities came in, when no citizen was found to be missing and every scalp was checked and found to be secure in its original setting, the skepticism grew like rising bread-dough in a hot pan.

When finally it was learned that the hostiles were still "west of the River" and had never been anywhere else; when it was proven that the only Indians within fifty miles were the few frightened "tame" Indians down at Fort Thompson, the stories of the home-protectors were repudiated altogether. It was noticed that the rank and file of Company-A remained unobtrusively at home during some weeks, and kept aloof from public gatherings that might possibly contain any pseudo-humorists.

"General" Bell, although he had failed to keep an Army, wisely kept his own counsel all this time. But eventually the truth came out. From the top of the little hill the "General" had seen a random party of white men, six or seven of them, hunting coyotes. Their wanton extravagance of black powder had just laid low two scrawny specimens. The hunters had presently ridden on about their business of hunting, all unaware of the dreadful risk to which they had been exposed,



(the risk of being all trampled down), so near the headquarters of the Cedar Township Militia.

The Indian Wars having been concluded, certainly so far as the protectors of homes were concerned, that magnificently informal unit of the Constabulary, Company-A was, by common consent, informally disbanded--forever! After which, figuratively speaking, its informal swords were beaten into informal plow-shares that made long informal furrows across vast informal prairies, which, if one knows where to look, may be seen to this day.

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## PRAIRIE GRANDMOTHER

(She Took the Sky Road at 89)

From the Dakota Farmer, by Myrna Cotton

Great-great-grandma Burrell moved along the row of hen nests and gathered the nice white eggs, placing them carefully in the wire basket, which she carried with the handle hooked over her arm. She enjoyed "picking" the eggs for her daughter and considered it her job. Then, too, those hens seemed to enjoy her rolling Scottish "burr" as she talked to them, and clucked contentedly in answer. There were many eggs today, and as she came back to the porch, she sat down, placing her basket of eggs on the floor beside her.

Somehow she couldn't forget that Tammy, Margaret, Catherine, and the bairns in Scotland, under the present rationing, had only one egg apiece per week, and these were kept for Sunday breakfast. Grandma thought of the Scottish kinsfolk a great deal these days, for she had but recently returned from visiting them; even the 11,000 miles she traveled by plane couldn't lessen the tug at her heart's strings. She rocked slowly in her chair and closed her eyes as memories came flooding back to her. Though time might dim many happenings in her life, some events would always be fresh in her mind.

Sixty-four years seemed like a few days past and she was a young mother again making plans to come to America from Scotland, to join her pioneer husband near Ree Heights, South Dakota.

Granny Burrell, in Scotland, had raised Margaret and her brothers and sisters from childhood, and when the time came for the journey to the new land, the Granny had begged to keep little Tammy, six years old.

"I dinna kin part with the lad; Jemima and George will keep you busy," The young mother was torn between her mother



love and love for Granny.

"You'll be back; you'll not stay in the new land; if you don't come back, I'll bring Tammy over!" Granny had had her way, and the mother, with only the two children, four and five years old, set sail for America.

The five weeks of ocean travel were very long indeed in 1883! Even today, Margaret remembered the weariness and the endless water. When they finally reached their destination, Margaret's heart had sunk in despair. Truly they had come to the end of the world! Nothing could be seen except a great sea of grass, punctuated with sod cabins.

Indian scares, blizzards, prairie fires, drouths, and grasshoppers made up the daily routine of those early years. There was ever present the spectre of loneliness for Scotland and the little son left behind.

Once Tom Burrell, the father, went back to Scotland to bring Tammy to America, but Granny had cried so piteously that the father hadn't the heart to take him away. Grandma Margaret, even now, remembered how anxiously she had waited for word from her boy.

Once, during the years, a Scotch minister, returning to the homeland for a visit, promised to look up the family at Galashiels. A smile quirked at the corners of Grandma's mouth as she remembered the story he told upon returning. He had found a little lad on the street and asked him where Mrs. Burrell lived. The lad answered:

"Gon up the street and dun the bra, the first house and last close you come tae."

The minister was bewildered. "Could you show me the way, yourself, lad?"

The boy replied quickly, "Sure I could; she's my granny!"

The shade on the porch was pleasant as Margaret mused, rocking. During the years, four other children were born to the Tom Burrells, and as they grew older, these children wrote to their brother in Scotland.

Tammy, at 26, was betrothed to a lovely Scotch lassie, and when his father again, after Granny's death, went to Scotland, he was unable to persuade him to come to America.

Grandma Margaret shed many secret tears for the old home and the boy grown to manhood; and then nearing old age too, as she, herself, was not only a grandma but a great-great-grandma.

Grandma dozed a little, and then woke with a start! Always



active, it wasn't quite natural for her to be just sitting idle, without the familiar knitting or crocheting in her hands.

"It's nice to sit still and remember." She spoke the words softly, although Marie, with whom she had made her home for many years, would have been glad to have her rest.

When Grandson Verne asked Grandma to take a ride in his airplane, she had been almost insulted. "Ride in one of those things! People my age (she was 87 then) ought to stay put on the ground!"

That airplane was a fascinating object! The rest of the family often rode in it.

One day Granny made up her mind she was going to ride too! No one knew when she made the decision but she appeared at the hangar in her old sweater, with her head tied up in a scarf, and asked Verne to take her up.

He tried to hide his surprise, but he gladly gave her a ride. From that time, she rode with him often, frequently making a trip to Faulkton to visit her son. She and her grandson would dip over the house as a signal and then land at the airport where the family would meet them in a car.

Marie often prayed that in some way her mother could make a trip back to Dumfries and Galashiels before she was too old. Nearing 89 years, it seemed almost impossible. Then another grandson, Gilbert, suggested that he give Gram the trip by plane, for the many kind things she had done for him.

It was decided that Marie should accompany them. By this time, Grandma was no novice at flying; thoughts of traveling in a huge airliner, traversing so many sky miles at her age, didn't excite her, but the thoughts of seeing her son and the old home were thrilling.

"I came by sea and I'd like to go back by air." The low-road coming and the high-road returning, for the flying great-great-grandmother! Twenty hours from New York to London, then by train to Edinburgh! Grandma wasn't tired; she was transformed! Her eyes sparkled and the years seemed to drop from her.

They stepped off the train at Edinburgh.

"There he is, there's Tammy!" Sixty-four years had passed since the first parting, but mother and son knew each other instantly.

Grandma's speech had slipped so easily into the Scotch accent that no one noticed until she was talking just like her kinsfolk. The grand-daughters, Margaret and Catherine loved



her on sight. The girls were overwhelmed by these Americans, who came bearing gifts of clothing and food which they hadn't seen during the war.

Grandma's face was peaceful as she stopped rocking, the better to recall the visit to the old home.

There huddled Dumfries between sea and the cliffs at her back. The air was damp as she had know it always. People wearing kilts, were playing bagpipes. Down the street toward the old house, she went alone, while the others watched to see; straight to the place where she had lived. The buildings of stone, well kept, remained the same. She recognized several of the shops. The woolen mill was still there, where she had worked, and St. Michael's church, built in 1017, with its handcarved pillars just the same as when she had last seen it, over half a century ago; only the box seats had been replaced by pews. There, too, was the record of Margaret's baptism. In the church yard were the well kept graves of the family. The Gray Friar church stood as staunch as ever but the tunnel from the abbey was in disuse.

There wasn't any coffee, very little meat, fruits or vegetables, unless one had lots of money. Tomatoes sold at 30¢ per pound and beans at \$1.25 per pound. Oh, South Dakota garden with the heavy rows of beans and the laden tomato vines! South Dakota prairies with the thousands of steers fattening for market! In Scotland, there was a great deal of the long-remembered porridge.

The old friends entertained the trio at many gatherings and Grandma chuckled as she thought how easily she had entered into the singing of the old Scotch songs and the recitations she gave. "Even Marie didn't know I knew so many!"

Grandma sighed. "It was a wonderful trip and the thousands of miles seemed to melt away as we sailed high in the air. I'm satisfied now; I've seen Tammy, Margaret, Catherine, and the bairns.

The last night in Scotland was a sad one, for the relatives and friends knew that "Granny", as they called her, wouldn't be coming back any more.

"Recite something for us Granny." Granny meditated a bit before she spoke for them the same poem she had given them in farewell, when she left Dumfries at the age of 14 to go to work in the mills. "This one I said to you 75 years ago, and I'll leave it with you now forever!"

Eyes were wet as Granny recited;



"As long as Chriffield hangs its heed,  
    Into the foaming sea,  
As long as the River Nith flows through Dumfries  
    So I'll remember thee.

"Remember me, when these you see,  
    And hear me in your mind;  
Be not like the weather cock,  
    That changes with the wind.

"But be like the turtle dove,  
    That flits from tree to tree,  
Relenting for its own true love,  
    As I'll relent for thee!"

Grandma wiped the tear away that would slide down her nose. It was good to be back home again! Then she rose quickly and for all her 89 years was straight and sturdy. Picking up the egg basket, she walked briskly into the house, calling: "Marie, Marie, guess how many eggs we got this time!"

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Courtesy The Daily Plainsman  
By Betty Van Buren

"She was a girl of five, snowbound in the section house at what is now St. Lawrence, and the family food supply gradually dwindled down to nothing but flour and lard during the terrible winter of 1880-'81. This was the first experience of life in S.D. to Mrs. James A. Loomis, the first white girl in Hand County.

In reminiscing the event, the 71 year old St. Lawrence woman says: "St. Lawrence was first known as Siding Number Three then Rex. Late in the fall of 1880, the railroad had been completed from Huron as far west as what is now Ree Heights."

Mrs. Loomis' father, Charles Shepherd, was brought from Waukegan, Ill. to take charge of Siding Number Three, located east of Hand Co.'s well-known spot, Turtle Creek. In company with her parents and three brothers, the pioneer arrived by train from Waukegan, landing in Huron on the anniversary of her fifth birthday; thence to St. Lawrence.

The section house was built close to the main track, southwest of where J.M. King's home later stood. This served as depot, express office, freight room, telegraph office, post office, hotel and cafe and as the home of Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd and their children: Robert, 12; Joe, 11; Charley, nine, and the girl Hannah. Joe, who for 42 years worked on the railroad out of Huron, died here Oct. 9, 1942.



Recalling the year of 1880 Mrs. Loomis said:

"It so happened that the last train west had left quite a store of provisions at Siding Number Three. But on the same train as it returned east, all of the boy's shoes and the gun that the family depended on for protection were sent to Huron to be repaired and returned at once.

"But winter came early that year," she continued, "and we were stranded, We had no gun for providing game to help stretch the food supply and the boys, without shoes, went about the station with their feet wrapped in rags."

It was four long months before another train came to the station but the Shepherds pulled through that awful winter and the first train through brought them supplies.

"The division superintendent at Huron was so anxious about our family," said Mrs. Loomis, "that he also came with the first train and finding us all alive sat down and wept for joy."

Although the agent at Station Four, Ree Heights, had moved his family to that location, his children were all boys, giving Mrs. Loomis the title of the first white girl in Hand County.

"The snow was so heavy that winter," continued the gray haired lady, "that when it melted in the spring, the high water took out a portion of the new railroad bridge across Turtle Creek. I've never seen anything quite like it."

But she said, "We were not to be the only settlers at Rex for long, for with spring came the great rush of homeseekers and the section house, so lonely during the winter, was filled to overflowing. The kitchen oven was kept going day and night."

Mr. Loomis also had recollections of pioneer days.

"In 1883," he said, "our family came by train to this country and my father took up land in the first township north of Holabird, 14 miles northwest of Highmore. Named in his honor it has become Loomis Township."

Later Loomis' father came to Hand Co. in 1892 to do threshing and the family decided to stay. Then 23, young Jim began as an apprentice in St. Lawrence's first blacksmith shop under the guidance of F.A. Altenow, early settler in the town.

In 1894 Jim bought the shop and was in business for himself until 1910 when he sold out and he and his wife moved to a farm five miles northeast of St. Lawrence in York Twp. where they lived until moving to Beadle Co. in 1938. Here they made their home in Theresa Twp. until Nov. of 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Loomis are the parents of twins: a son, Clyde of Superior, Wisconsin, and Clara, at home.



## REMINISCENCES

By Ross Cotton

Our book would not be complete without a word from our "Better Half," whose interest and enthusiasm for this book has helped to make it possible. He has always felt a keen interest in the early history of our community and his delight in telling stories of "those other days," has known no bounds. He tells us:

"We landed in Miller March 7, 1909 at 4 p.m. We started out the next morning, headed for our farm 17 miles south of town, on horseback, driving the cattle. We got to the Ruff farm at 4 a.m. We thought surely we must be nearly home but found we had four miles to go, that was the longest journey I ever took. Mrs. Ruff fed us since we had had nothing to eat since the morning we started out. It sure tasted good! By daylight we reached our new home. Two small granaries had been put together for a house and Dad and Van Kingery were there. Mom and the rest of the family were to come later. We had no fire since we didn't have a stove up so we ate hard doughnuts and drank cold water. The next morning we went to Kintigh's store and bought dried peaches and pears.

That day we got the stove up and had our first dinner in Hand County.

The first night we were in Miller we sat in the hotel and heard the old-timers tell about the fertility of the soil.

One man from the east had an old breaking plow, two oxen and the plow wasn't much good. He dug a ditch with the plow, turning over the grass. The rains came and he sowed the grain by hand. He reaped 17 bushels of flax to the acre and cut hay off the same land that fall.

Joe Sinkey once told me that when he came to this country he had five bushels of wheat - he broke up a patch big enough to sow it on and that fall had 125 bushels of wheat from five.

L. L. Frye said that a man broke a patch of land and sowed his grain using a barrel in a wagon, throwing the seed out by hand - he had no machinery except a hay rake. He raked the land after the seed was sown and got 30 bushels per acre. He also told how they broke the sod, laid the potatoes under the sod and tramped it down, there was no cultivation. When they dug the potatoes they were all flat ones, but he reported that they got as high as 300 bushels per acre.

If I could have been a cartoonist and pictured Mr. Frye as he was I would have laid Andy Gump in the shade. He was a



humorist and an amusing neighbor but always a friend in need."

In further exhorting Hand Co. Cotton says: "There is no place like it! We have better grass and cattle than anywhere you'll find. We are in the heart of the Hereford country, on the Main Street of North America!"

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Requests for postmark cancellations showing Miller's 75th Anniversary, June 10-13 have been received at the postoffice, reports Postmaster Willis A. Hall. They have come from 42 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Hawaii and England and Germany.

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